Shepherds

DECEMBER, 1954

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by Bishop Gerald Kennedy

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TIDINGS

Headquarters for Evangelistic Materials, 1908 Grand Ave., Nashville 5, Tenn.

SHEPHERDS

For Commission on Membership and Evangelism in the Local Church

December, 1954

Vol. 9—No. 3

Geo. H. Jones, *Editor*
Gordon Pratt Baker, *Editorial Associate*
Edward Ferguson, Jr., *Editorial Assistant*

John Lewis Sandlin, *Editorial Associate*
John G. Walton, *Director of Promotion*
D. E. Jackson, *Business Manager*

TIDINGS, 1908 Grand Avenue
Nashville 5, Tennessee

Chairmen of the Commission on Membership and Evangelism in local churches, whose names and addresses are available, receive *Shepherds* each month free of charge. Pastors, District Superintendents, and District and Conference Secretaries of Evangelism are requested to report these names and addresses, giving the name of the church, charge, District, and Conference.

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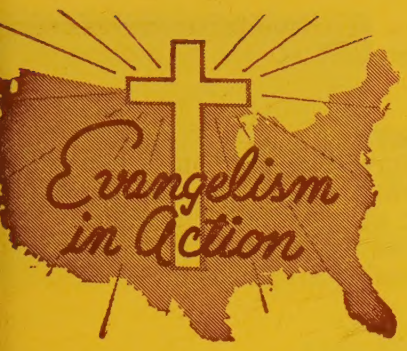
National Gallery of Art, Washington, D. C.
Widener Collection



GOOD NEWS FLASHES ...FROM THE FIELD

70-E . . . program of General Board of Evangelism by which seminary students from 16 theological schools did evangelistic work in 46 Annual Conferences . . . summer of 1954 . . . officially concluded September 4. The 70-E preached 1,263 times to a total of 93,608 persons . . . Under direction of 70-E 41,196 families surveyed . . . 12,824 Methodist prospects located.

70-E Evangelistic Results

Under direction 70-E commitments on profession of faith and by vows . . . 1,471 . . . by transfer . . . 517 . . . total 1,988 . . . nearly 2,000. These results in summer when many churches accustomed to inactivity.

70-E Start Churches and Revive Churches

5 new churches started and fully organized with cooperation of 70-E . . . new churches are in Salisbury, N. C., . . . Springfield, Illinois, . . . Memphis, Tennessee, . . . Modesto, California, and Covina, California, . . . Churches were re-opened or completely revived in Ebenezer, Alabama, . . . Hopland, California, . . . Shelley, Idaho, . . . Shintown, Pennsylvania, . . . Sharon, Indiana, . . . and Dayton, Michigan.

Youth Christian Witness News

Florida Conference . . . sets goal of 20% increase in M.Y.F., . . . in the Christian Witness Missions in every local church Preparation Conferences October 25-29 . . . Preparatory Training Classes December 6-10 . . . Membership Sunday . . . December 12. Illinois Conference . . . Pilot Christian Witness Mission in churches of Springfield District . . . October 21-24 . . . students and pastors from each District participate . . . repeat Mission in other Districts in Spring 1955.

Memphis Conference . . . Christian Witness Mission in every local church . . . December 3-5. North Georgia Conference M.Y.F. sets goal for increase in M.Y.F. from Christian Witness Missions in 3 Districts at 600.

Metropolitan Mobile Christian Witness Mission October 29-30 and November 5-7.

Philadelphia Area Pilot Christian Witness Mission . . . Philadelphia . . . November 12-14.

Evangelism Moves Forward in Central Jurisdiction

Atlantic Coast Area made plans at Sumter, South Carolina to promote in every local church the 1955 Church Attendance Crusade . . . "Four Nights For God" . . . Youth Christian Witness Mission, "Christmas For Christ," and United Evangelistic Missions on District and Conference levels.

City-wide revival was held in Indianapolis, Indiana in September . . . permanent prayer groups formed . . . inactives made active . . . new spirit of fellowship between participating churches.

Bishop M. W. Clair holding week-end retreats on sub-district and district levels in conferences of St. Louis Area to deepen spiritual life and advance local church work.

Plans Underway for 1955 Camps

New York City, September 20 Planning Committee of Ocean Grove Conference on Evangelism set date for July 10-17, 1955 . . . made plans for pre-registration to begin

soon after January 1 . . . Content of program greatly expanded . . . focusing on local church Commission on Membership and Evangelism . . . larger representation of laymen sought.

Atlanta, Georgia, October 1, Planning Committee for 1955 Conference on Evangelism . . . at Lake Junaluska . . . July 24-31, 1955, . . . Pre-registration begins January 1, . . . Emphasis on Local Church Commission. . . larger lay attendance sought. October 12, . . . Preliminary study at Oklahoma City made by leaders of the South Central Jurisdiction to consider advisability of Conference on Evangelism in summer of 1955, such as planned in the Northeastern and Southeastern Jurisdictions.

Four Nights For God

Enthusiastic response to "Four Nights For God" program . . . Seven Conference-wide promotions going forward . . . Alabama, Kentucky, North Alabama, Oregon, Southwest Missouri, Southwest Texas and St. Louis. Many additional Districts carrying out plan.

Rural Missions

Holston Conference Rural Revival . . . November 14-21, 1954, and February 27, March 6, 1955 to reach over 600 churches in circuits of three or more units.

Central District, West Virginia Conference importing 250 guest ministers from whole Pittsburgh Area . . . October 10-17 . . . "Evangelistic Mission to All of Life" . . . every church on each of 33 circuits, many with 6 to 11 churches . . . and all station charges . . . entire Cabinet, led by Bishop Lloyd C. Wicke, participating.

Prayer Life Movement

Memphis Conference Prayer Life Mission . . . Brownsville, Tennessee, November 11, 1954, . . . Leaders . . . Bishop Roy H. Short, Dr. Edward Elson (President Eisenhower's pastor), Dr. Kermit Long, pastor, Trinity Methodist, Chicago, and Dr. Wayne Lamb, pastor, Union Avenue Methodist, Memphis, Tennessee.

SPECIAL . . . Word received that Broadway Temple, New York City, Dr. Allen Claxton, pastor; Mt. Vernon Place Church, Washington, D. C., Dr. Albert P. Shirkey, pastor; Trinity Methodist Church, Chicago, Dr. Kermit Long, pastor, coming in on 1955 "Prayer Chain." If your Church wants to join in the "1955 Prayer Chain," write today to Prayer Life Movement, 1908 Grand Avenue, Nashville 5, Tennessee.

Bishop Holds Rallies

Bishop Richard C. Raines held District rallies in preparation for the Spiritual Life Mission, October 16-22 and November 6-12, in all of the 17 Districts of his Area. Spoke to capacity congregations.

Spiritual Life Mission

The Rappahannock District of the Virginia Conference Spiritual Life Mission October 17-22, initiated and directed by the District Superintendent and District Secretary of Evangelism.

Evangelistic Plans

In Tampa, Florida, September 28, over 50 leaders laid plans for promotion in the Area this year . . . 1. A Christian Witness Mission in every church. 2. A "Reaching Revival" in every church. 3. Church Attendance Crusade in every church. 4. Development of a vital and vigorous concern for promotion of membership and evangelism in every church.

September 17-19, 1954, 100 persons registered at Bridgeport, Texas, for intensive study of purpose of Local Church Commission on Membership and Evangelism. Dr. J. Harrison Baker, D.S., and Dr. C. Lloyd Daugherty, National Director of the Local Church Commission on Membership and Evangelism, were leaders.

ORDER BLANK

TIDINGS EVANGELISTIC MATERIALS

INSPIRATIONAL AND PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS FOR THE "CHRISTMAS FOR CHRIST" CRUSADE

Quantity *Amount*

_____ **Rediscovering Christmas,** by G. Ernest Thomas **50¢ each; 12 or more, 35¢ each** _____
A new book describing practical ways in which to make this a Christian Christmas.

_____ **Christmas for Christ in the Home** **$1.50 per 100** _____
Specific suggestions concerning the observance of Christmas in the home. Two colors.

_____ **Christ in Christmas,** by G. Ernest Thomas **$2.00 per 100** _____
A helpful tract on the meaning of Christmas.

_____ **Keeping Christmas,** by Henry Van Dyke **$1.50 per 100** _____
Beautiful, two-color, Christmas greeting card folder.

_____ **Window Cards** (11"x8½") **5¢ each; 6 for 25¢** _____

_____ **Posters** (17"x22") **10¢ each; 6 for 50¢** _____
To be used in vestibules, on bulletin boards, in public places, etc.

_____ **Window Stickers** (in pads of 100) **50¢ per 100** _____
For use on windows, etc. Printed on gummed side

_____ **Celluloid Buttons** (minimum order, 50) **$3.00 per 100** _____
Bear the "Christmas for Christ" slogan.

Quantity *Amount*

_____ **Billboard Posters** (Four colors) **$10.00 each** _____
Regular roadside billboard size—19 feet 4 inches by 8½ feet.

_____ **Lawn Signs** (5x3 feet) **$5.00 each** _____
Beautiful six-color canvas lawn sign.

_____ **Printed Letters** **$1.00 per 100** _____
For churches to mail to members promoting a Christian Christmas observance.

_____ **Christmas Cards** (with matching envelopes) **$3.00 per 100** _____
An attractive card folder emphasizing "Christmas for Christ."

_____ **1-column Mat** **15¢ each** _____
For newspapers and printed church bulletins

_____ **2-column Mat** (for publicity) **20¢ each** _____
Give this mat to your newspaper with a Christmas news story and article.

_____ **Large Newspaper Mat** **50¢ each** _____
A 2-column mat, 7 inches deep, bearing a Christmas message urging that "Christmas Is for Christ."

_____ **Auto Bumper Strips** (minimum order, 50) 2 colors **50 for $6.00** _____

HELPFUL MATERIALS FOR EVERY CHURCH

The Tract of the Month

_____ **A Christmas Creed,** by Walter Russell Bowie
An appreciative expression. **$2.00 per 100** _____
(Tract-of-the-Month Club members *do not* order here).

The Tidings Book of the Month

_____ **God Is Our Strength,** by Bishop Gerald Kennedy **50¢ each; 12 or more, 35¢ each** _____
(This is the December selection)

_____ **Rediscovering Christmas,** by G. Ernest Thomas **50¢ each; 12 or more, 35¢ each** _____
(This is the November selection)

_____ **How to Find the Will of God,** by Page. **50¢ each; 12 or more, 35¢ each** _____
(This was the October selection.)

_____ **Sin and Salvation,** by W. F. Hovis. **50¢ each; 12 or more, 35¢ each** _____
(This was the September selection.)
Yes! Enroll me as a member of the TIDINGS Book Club. (See inside front cover. *Cash with order.*) $4.00 _____

The Spiritual Life

_____ **Complete Fellowship Plan Packet**
Our church has _____ resident members. This number divided by 20 means that we will need _____ Fellowship Leader's Kits @ 40¢ each, for a total cost of $_____
It is necessary to add to this a "Chairman's Folder" which contains the "Spiritual Life Fellowship Plan" booklets and other materials for the Chairman, @ 40¢ _____

_____ **How to Organize and Operate the Fill a Pew Plan** **5¢ each; 25 or more; 3¢ each** _____

New Turn Over Chart

_____ **Turn Over Chart,** "Spiritual Life for Methodist Christians" **$12.00 each** _____
To help all church members to become more active—96 large pages—four sections—two colors—profusely illustrated.

Religious Census

_____ **The Religious Census,** by Eugene E. Golay (Revised). **10¢ each; 6 for 50¢** _____

CHURCH ATTENDANCE CRUSADE

Church Attendance Packet

CHECK PACKET DESIRED
(Nearest Your Church Membership)

		Church Membership	*Price*
____	No. 1	100	$ 3.00
____	No. 1½	150	4.50
____	No. 2	200	6.00
____	No. 2½	250	7.50
____	No. 3	300	9.00
____	No. 3½	350	10.50
____	No. 4	400	12.00
____	No. 4½	450	13.50
____	No. 5	500	15.00
____	No. 5½	550	16.50
____	No. 6	600	18.00
____	No. 6½	650	19.50
____	No. 7	700	21.00
____	No. 7½	750	22.50
____	No. 8	800	24.00
____	No. 8½	850	25.50
____	No. 9	900	27.00
____	No. 9½	950	28.50
____	No. 10	1,000	30.00

Mark Price of Your Packet Here $____

These are not in packet but very important.

____ **Attendance Registration Cards** ____
50¢ per 100; $2.25 for 500; $4.00 per 1,000
For best results you will need to register the attendance, on several Sundays, of each person present.

____ **"Foundation for National Greatness"** ____
A stimulating leaflet. $1.00 per 100

____ **Radio Spot Announcements** $4.00 each ____

Promotional Materials

Number *Amount*

____ **Billboard Posters** $10.00 each ____
Large 24-sheet roadside billboard posters (19 ft. 4 in. by 8 ft. 6 in.) containing four-color emblem, "God Is Our Strength." Community organizations may order 10 or more at $8.00 each, if cash accompanies order.

____ **Lawn Signs** $5.00 each ____
Community organizations may order 10 or more at $4.00 each, if cash accompanies order.

____ **Church Bulletins** $1.00 per 100 ____

____ **Hymnal Bands** $1.00 per 100 ____

____ **Letterheads,** 8½x11inches, mimeograph paper 75¢ per 100 ____

____ **Printed Letters,** 8½x11 inches $1.00 per 100 ____

____ **Celluloid Buttons** $3.00 per 100 ____

____ **Certificate of Loyalty** $1.00 per 100 ____

____ **Stickers** 50¢ per 100 ____

____ **Auto Bumper Strips** 50 for $6.00 ____

____ **Sets of Table Grace Cards** 10¢ per set ____

____ **Stuffer Leaflets** $1.00 per 100 ____

____ **Newspaper Mat Series** $3.50 per series ____

____ **Personal Invitation Cards** $1.00 per 100 ____

____ **Posters,** 17x22 inches 10¢ each; 6 for 50¢ ____

Basic Booklets (In the Packet)

____ **The Community Church Attendance Crusade** ____
10¢ each; 6 for 50¢; 10 or more, 8¢ each

____ **How to Plan and Promote the 1955 Church Attendance Crusade in Your Church** ____
10¢ each; 6 for 50¢; 10 or more, 8¢ each

TIDINGS, Headquarters for Evangelistic Materials, 1908 Grand Avenue, Nashville 5, Tennessee

PLEASE FILL MY ORDER AS CHECKED. **Total Amount of Order** _____

( ) **Payment enclosed** ( ) **Charge to treasurer** ( ) **Charge to my account**

_____
Rev., Mr., Mrs., Miss

_____
NAME

_____
ADDRESS

_____
Church Treasurer

_____
Address

Date _____ **Order placed by** _____

Please sign, do not type, your name in the space provided above.

Christmas for Christ in the Home

by Eugene E. Golay

IT was Christmas time. A mother and her young son were shopping for gifts in a large department store. On one counter was a display of articles for setting up a small crèche, or manger scene, in the home. The boy stopped before it with wonder in his eyes. Lifting up the little manger with the figure of the Christ child in it, he asked with amazement, "Mother, what is this?" But the busy mother, caught in the rush of preparations for Christmas, pulled him away impatiently and said, "C'mon, c'mon, you don't want that!"

This is a parable of the attitude of throngs of people at Christmas. They never really experience the true meaning and joyous blessing of the holy season. Their minds, filled with preparations for the celebration, have "no room" for the Christ whose birthday we celebrate.

Strange to say, for millions of people Christmas is a tiring and boresome experience. The rush and crush of buying, the mess and fuss of entertaining, the stretch and strain of budget balancing divest it of religious significance and drain it of spiritual inspiration. The holy festival becomes a hectic carnival. It does not matter to many persons that Christ came as God's supreme revelation of Himself. Santa Claus is the central figure. Their children's concept of God is molded by the character of the make-believe giver.

Christmas for Christ

As Christians, we need to re-assert Christianity's claims on the happiest day of the year. Christmas is for Christ! It is a time to remember God's love, revealed in the coming of Jesus Christ. It is a time to demonstrate Jesus' teaching of love and unselfishness.

Christmas is a Christian festival. We should keep it as Christians in our personal lives, in the home, in the church, and in the community. We should utilize every opportunity to proclaim its true meaning for mankind. Let there be no questions in the minds of modern pagans about whose birthday we celebrate. Keep Christ at the center, and He will draw men to Himself.

Keeping a Christian Christmas

Someone has said that "knowledge is power." But knowledge is also "responsibility." As Christians, we "know" the true meaning of Christmas. Thus we are "responsible" to share that knowledge. We need to show, through our observance of the Christmas season, its Christian meaning and spirit.

Let us put into practice Christian attitudes at Christmas. "By this shall all men know that you are my disciples," said Jesus, "If you have love for one another." Christian attitudes exalt Christ. Christmas is an opportune time to lift Him up before others as we show love and unselfishness and gratitude and joy and hope. We Christians should be more concerned about others than about ourselves, more interested in giving than in getting. We must not allow ourselves to be caught up in the hectic rush and secular concerns of the season. Our lives may be stars leading men to Bethlehem and the Light of the World.

Christian Greeting Cards

One of the lovely modern Christmas customs is that of sending greeting cards. The idea is to commemorate the joy of the holy event of Bethlehem, which took place 2,000 years ago. Yet the symbols appearing on many of the cards today have no Christian significance—clowns, cocktail glasses, funny animals, gaudy flowers, countryside sketches,

etc. The act of sending cards becomes for many a frantic chore, dogged by the constant fear that someone has been left off the list.

Keeping a Christian Christmas involves the use of meaningful Christian greeting cards. Many beautiful cards conveying the true spirit of Christmas are available. These depict such scenes as the Nativity, the Wise Men, the Shepherds, the Madonna, the Star, and the Manger. Family scenes with appropriate religious greetings may add a personal touch. These may bear our Christian witness by exalting Christmas as the birthday of our Saviour.

Christian Giving

Christmas is a time for giving and receiving gifts. This beautiful custom coincides with the desire of Christians to express their joy and gratitude for God's gift to mankind. But how barren the custom becomes when giving is merely an exchange of presents! Influenced by too much high-pressure advertising, multitudes, caught in the frenzy, drain their bank accounts to purchase expensive gifts on the theory that price tags demonstrate their depth of love and breadth of good will.

If we are to keep Christmas Christian, we must consider seriously the Christian attitude toward giving. St. Paul gave a basic Christian principle: "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Here are some suggested goals:

—To give gifts, not exchange presents
—To give to some persons who cannot return the gift (such as providing CARE packages)
—To include the Church in our gift list
—To support some missionary project at Christmas
—To eliminate all alcoholic beverages from our gift list
—To give useful gifts
—To give for the joy of giving

Christmas in the Home

Christmas is a Christian religious festival, the happiest, most joyous occasion of the year. In the Advent Season the Church has one of its greatest opportunities for declaring the "Good News." Members of a Christian home will cooperate with the Church as it proclaims the Christmas Story, through scripture, music, sermon, drama, and church school activities.

However, more than any other religious festival, Christmas is a home and family celebration. It commemorates the birth of a baby. It reminds us of the home in Nazareth and the influence of "one solitary life." It is a time for the entire family to share in preparations and activities exalting its divine significance.

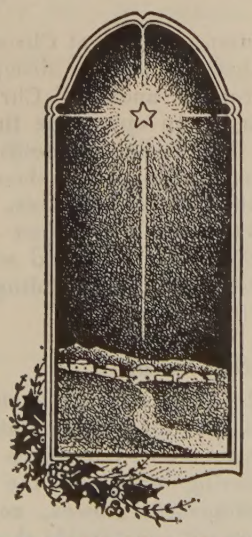
The Christian family may carry out a variety of activities at Christmas time to teach its Christian meaning.

—Have the children help in decorating the home. Explain the meaning of each symbol—stars, candles, holly, evergreen tree, lights.
—Set up a home manger scene with the help of the children.
—Make a large family Christmas candle and have a lighting ceremony (Luke 2:8-16).
—Have a Christmas "birthday cake" for Christ.
—Work out a home worship service for Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, asking all members of the family to participate.
—Have an evening of Christmas carols and stories.
—Attend Christmas worship services in your church as a family.
—Eliminate all alcoholic beverages from family celebrations.
—Exercise Christian attitudes toward giving and receiving gifts.
—Prepare a family Christmas gift for some benevolent cause.

Many homes have THE UPPER ROOM and use it, day by day, as a regular devotional aid. The November-December issue carries a special Home Worship Service for Christmas Day, in addition to the regular meditation. The singing of the great Christmas carols and the reading of the Christmas story from the Gospels can make for an inspirational Christmas in the home.

We can observe a Christian Christmas only by keeping Christ at the heart of the celebration. His presence hallows and makes meaningful every feature. The face of God is unveiled, and we bow in adoration and worship. When Christ is the center, Christmas is no longer a dreaded and meaningless ceremonial. It becomes a joyous experience and a glorious hope.

(Copies of this article are available from TIDINGS in leaflet form at $1.50 per 100. Pastors are urged to order in quantities sufficient to give one copy to each church family in stressing the "Christmas for Christ!" emphasis.)



A Christmas Prayer

Give me not splendor, gold nor fame
In blessed Christmas time;
Give me God's glory; and proclaim
His peace in every clime!
Give me this day
In which I may
Receive as guest the King, I pray!
Give me not splendor, gold, nor fame;
Give peace, in Jesus' name!

To rich and poor, to high and low,
Come holy Christmas peace;
Come joyously, with heavenly glow
Earth's frozen heart to ease!
O, Holy Guest,
Of all the best,
My Lord, my king, my hope, my rest!
To rich and poor, to high and low,
Come with Thy heavenly glow!

—Zacharias Topelius
Translation by
E. Gustav Johnson

The Commission on Membership and Evangelism

"Project for the Month"

of December Is

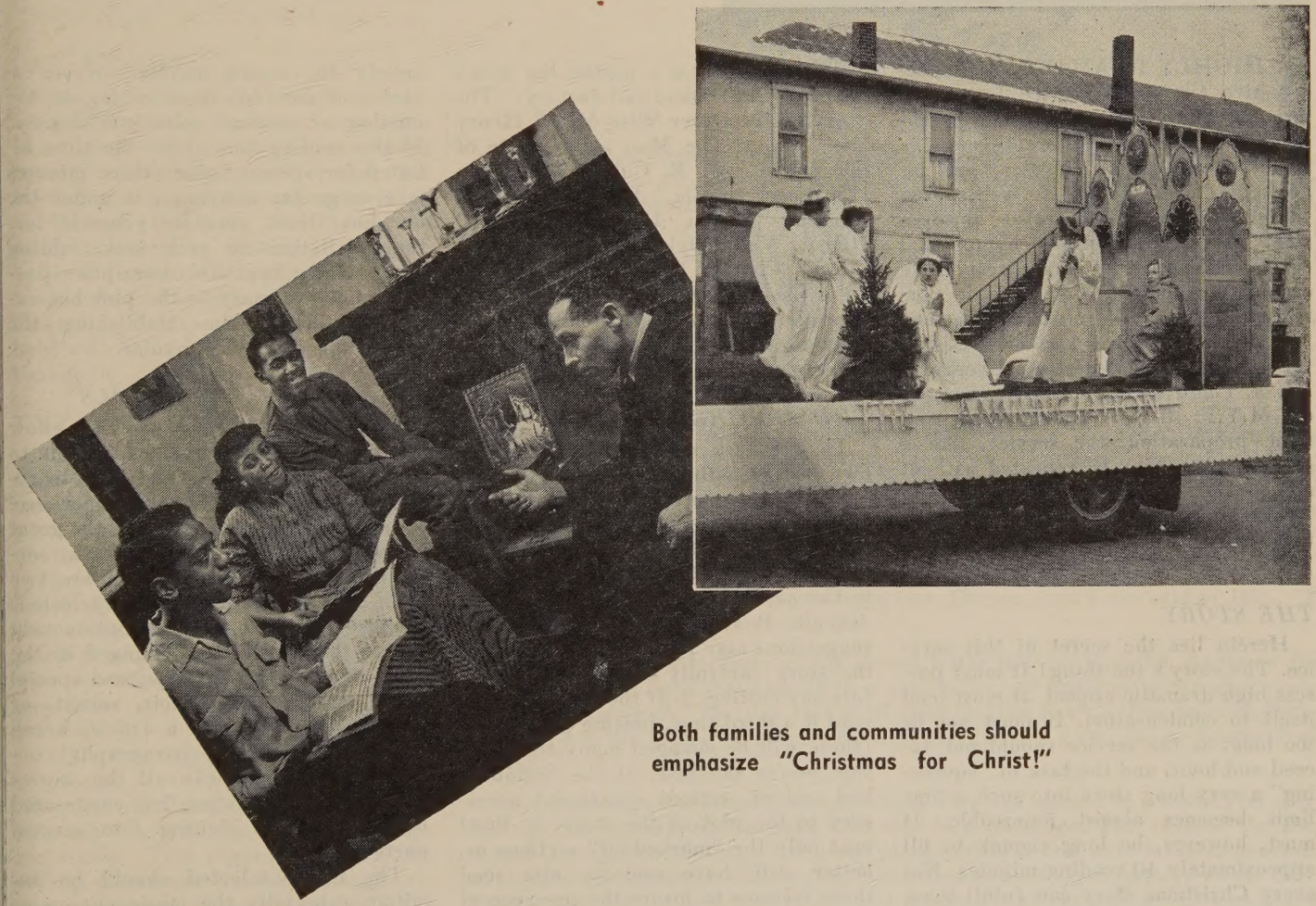
CHRISTMAS FOR CHRIST!

One of the most needful things the Church and Christian people can do is to redeem Christmas from the secular celebration it has become to the spiritual occasion it should be.

This does not mean to rob Christmas of its gifts, its joy, its festivity but rather to reclaim for Christmas the kind of giving, joy, and festivity which will be a blessing to man and honor to the One whose birthday we celebrate.

The following pages provide practical information and helps for the local church in a program stressing "Christmas for Christ!"

Please read these pages with care and with genuine concern for Christmas upon your heart. Here you will find suggestions your church can and should follow. Here you will find program, projects, plans—all workable and most of them proved effective in other churches last year. Talk these plans over with your pastor and with your Commission on Membership and Evangelism. You will be surprised how many of them your church can do—if you will only try!



Both families and communities should emphasize "Christmas for Christ!"

A *Different* Christmas Service

by

Richard Hilton Adams

Grand View Heights Community Methodist Church

Lancaster, Pennsylvania

A HIGHLY DRAMATIC and effective Christmas service for ministers and youth workers who are searching for something "different" may be achieved with small effort. Basic ingredients are these: A well-chosen Christmas story; a careful abridgement; a few appropriate hymns and carols; a good reader; and a responsive organist or pianist. Combined in correct proportions, the result is a beautiful service of words and music, ideal for a Candlelight Christmas Eve Service, a Youth Fellowship Program, or an M.Y.F. Rally. Though requiring some preparation, the service, like a great cantata, may be repeated without monotony. If two services were "worked-out" they could be used alternately with endless effectiveness.

THE STORY

Herein lies the secret of this service. The story's the thing! It must possess high dramatic appeal. It must lend itself to condensation. It must not be too long, as the service should not exceed and hour, and the task of "squeezing" a very long story into such a time limit becomes almost impossible. It must, however, be long enough to fill approximately 40 reading minutes. Not every Christmas story can fulfill these requirements. The end achievement nevertheless justifies the search.

The following is a partial list which the author has found satisfactory: "The Story of the Other Wise Man," Henry Van Dyke; "The Man at the Gate of the World," W. E. Cule; "The Little Hunchback of Zia," Frances Hodgson Burnett; "Even Unto Bethlehem," Henry Van Dyke; "A Christmas Carol," Charles Dickens. Fortunately, all of these stories may be found in *The Fireside Book of Christmas Stories,* Edward Wagenknecht, Grosset & Dunlap, New York.

THE ABRIDGEMENT

In this task each individual is his own boss. Continuity is the first, last, and primary consideration. After the scissors have been used one must still have a story, still have the *author's* story, and still have the *author's story* in the *author's words.* The task is not difficult. It is even much fun. These suggestions may prove helpful: 1. Read the story carefully at least twice before any cutting. 2. If the book is yours, read it a third time, putting pencil dots (these will be changed many times before you're satisfied) at the beginning and end of sections considered necessary to the plot of the story. 3. Read next only the "marked-off" sections or, better still, have someone else read these sections to insure the presence of continuity. 4. Read the selected portions aloud, timing yourself—approximately 40 reading minutes are necessary—no more—less according to the number of musical selections desired. If the reading time, plus the time allotted for special music (three minutes is average for a hymn), is under the one hour limit, consider yourself fortunate. Return to your task, adding many of the beautiful descriptive passages not necessary to the plot but extremely helpful in establishing the story's mood and local color.

THE HYMNS AND CAROLS

Here is the task of love. To allow the author's mood and inspiration to saturate your thinking and then to re-express that emotional experience through the selection of one of the great hymns of the church is the task, certainly *a* task, of love. There are two main types of music to be selected: background music, played continuously during the reading and changed as the mood of the story changes; and special music, sung by the choir, soloist, or congregation whenever a *definite* break (chapters, divisions, paragraphs) occurs in the story. (In all the stories listed above the author has cooperated by dividing his writing into several parts).

The music selected should be familiar, especially the music chosen as background. Only the familiar hymns invoke moods. Repetition in the special

music is questionable, but in the background music, often desired. In proper order the following musical selections were used in the author's adaptation of "The Story of the Other Wise Man": "Joy to the World," vs. 1, 2, 4 (special); "We Three Kings" (background); "We Would See Jesus," v. 1 (s); "We Would See Jesus" (b); "O Come All Ye Faithful" v. 1 (s); "O Come All Ye Faithful" (b); "We Three Kings" (b); "Beautiful Star" (b) "Beautiful Star" vs. 1, 3 (s); "We Three Kings" (b); "As With Gladness Men of Old" (b); "O Love That Will Not Let Me Go" (b); "As With Gladness Men of Old" (b); "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (b); "We Three Kings" (b); "We Three Kings" vs. 1, 2, 3, 4, (s); "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (b); "O Little Town of Bethlehem" vs. 1, 2 (s); "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (b); "O Little Town of Bethlehem" vs. 3, 4 (s); "We Would See Jesus" (b); "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" vs. 1, 2 (s); "The Holy City" (b); "Beneath the Cross" (b); "O Love That Will Not Let Me Go" (b); " 'Tis Midnight" (b); "Silent Night" (b); "Silent Night" vs. 1, 2, 3, 4 (s).

THE READING

Any individual who reads slowly, articulately, and possesses some idea of modulation is for this service a "good reader." Dramatic power comes not through the manner of reading as much as through the story itself and the musical selections. Reading is made easier if the script is typed, if all music —special and background—is clearly indicated, and if several rehearsals are held with the organist to insure precise timing.

THE ORGANIST

To him we say, "Play softly." His task is greatly aided if the script is mounted on cardboard and if a complete roster of hymns and other music (both background and special), in proper order, is also mounted on cardboard. Where repetition occurs, duplicate copies of the music should be supplied. A helper to turn script and music who has attended rehearsals is an added guarantee of a smoothly conducted service.

S. Arthur Devan in his excellent volume on worship entitled, *Ascent to Zion,* has reminded us, "Christian worship must be a living, changing, growing thing." This suggestion for a *different* Christmas service, though requiring some work, seems to fulfill the letter and spirit of those words. Try it!

"His Star"

In the Book of Genesis there is a lovely little story of how God asked Abraham to count the stars—"Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them." The new giant telescope on Mount Palomar is expected to reveal at least 1,000,000,000 stars, all of them larger than our earth. Out of all that great host in the heavens, there was one star which was called *"His* Star," so it must have been a very, very special star.

To begin with, it was a *bright* star—as the Christmas hymn says, it was "brightest and best of the sons of the morning." It was an entirely new star. Nothing like it was known before and nothing like it has been known since. It was *"His"* star. Whose star? The New Testament gives us three clues to the answer.

First, the wise men who first saw this bright and new star said, "Where is he that is born KING of the Jews? for we have seen HIS star in the east, and are coming to worship him." No one could tell them, only the star; and it led them "till it came and stood over where the young child was." The star belonged to Jesus, the Babe in Bethlehem.

Secondly, in the Book of Revelation we read of how John saw a vision of Jesus, no longer a Babe in a manger, but a King on a Throne. And Jesus said to John, "I, Jesus—am the bright and morning star."

Thirdly, the Apostle Peter in his second letter tells us that the stories in the Bible are like "a light that shineth in a dark place" to bring us to the glad dawn of that day in which "The day star shall arise in your heart." The Babe of Bethlehem who is the King of Heaven will come to shine like a star in our hearts if we ask Him.

Some years ago, the Great Chicago World Fair was opened in a wonderful way. The organizers trapped the light of a star in a telescope. The rays of the star passed through the telescope into a cell placed at focus and were made to generate an electric current which was amplified and used to start up machinery at the Fair. That is a picture of how "the bright and morning star" can shine into our hearts to make life bright and new.—from *Children's Tract of the Month,* Stirling, Scotland.

Advent---Season of Evangelism

by

James R. Webb, Jr.

First Methodist Church

Bainbridge, Georgia

"Come to Christ at Christmas!"

What more relevant theme could occupy us during Advent than this? The Advent season, beginning on the fourth Sunday before Christmas (November 28), is a time of unusual evangelistic opportunity.

Consider, for one thing, how the appeal of evangelism can be placed in vital relation to the theme of Advent and Christmas. In our preaching and teaching and person-to-person conversations, they can be brought into natural alliance.

Meaning of Advent

For example, the very word "Advent" means "coming to." It is said that the early Christians did not mournfully say, "Look what the world is coming to," but rather cried joyously, "Look what has come to the world!"

The first Christmas was not only a time of Christ's coming to the world; it was likewise a time of men's coming to Christ. The wise men came to Christ (and men today who are wise will do the same). The shepherds, humble and ordinary men, came to Christ (and, even yet, the humblest and plainest among us finds ready welcome). They came to Him along different routes, even as people yet find their way to Him by diverse paths. The important thing, however, is still not *how* men come, but *whether* they come.

In our evangelistic approach during this period we may also make high use of the theme of *giving*. It is a season when everyone's thoughts turn to giving. During these weeks, both Christians and non-Christians are preparing to make gifts to family and friends. The bringing of gifts was part of the Bethlehem story. The Magi laid their treasures at the Christ's feet.

Our appeal to the non-Christian, therefore, can be: Make the supreme presentation of all—your life! Bring *yourself*, as the greatest of all gifts, to Christ at Christmas.

Then, too, this is the season of God's greatest gift. One of the best ways to reach the heart of the non-Christian is to persuade him of God's great love for him. In our evangelistic effort during Advent, we may readily draw the connection between God's love-motivated gift of Jesus to the world and God's love and concern for the individual who needs Jesus in his own life.

These are but a few illustrations of the way the Advent and Christmas seasons lend themselves to the content of the evangelistic message.

From an organizational standpoint, also, this period is an opportune time for evangelism. The names of the prospects will presumably have been gathered during early autumn—one of the best times for such an effort. Sunday school promotions will have brought new prospects into the junior department and other departments. Church Loyalty emphases during October and November will have built up the congregation and should have resulted in increased prospect lists. During this season, when church attendance is usually on the increase, attendance registration at the services will turn up the names of a number of prospects.

Emphasis on Christmas

From Thanksgiving to Christmas, there is a period in the schedule of most churches when other major church emphases are put aside, and the entire church program is slanted toward Christmas. During this time, evangelism can be given the green light for a really concerted effort.

It is recommended that the Sunday before Christmas, December 19, be set as Membership Sunday. On that day, the plans and hopes are to receive large numbers of new members into the church. Toward this end, visitation evangelism teams should be organized or re-activated and set to work.

One night each week during the four weeks in Advent could well be devoted to visitation evangelism. Such a consistent effort will bear fruit. There would be some advantage in setting the *same* night each week for visitation. It is easier for the workers to remember it and to arrange their personal schedule accordingly. On the other hand, there are advantages in meeting on a different night each week. Then it is possible to find certain prospects at home who are habitually out on some particular night each week. Also, a wider variety of visitation workers can be used. Whatever night is decided upon, the teams should gather *early* for their work, for the early dark of a winter evening shortens their visiting time.

Pastor's Classes

The several weeks before Christmas should seem a good period, also, for the pastor to organize a pastor's class for new members.

One good time for such classes is the Sunday school hour. This helps to train new members in the habit of attending Sunday school and makes it easier for them to arrange for their children's care during the class. Such a class might well culminate on Christmas Sunday morning with a review of the church vows and of the details of the reception service soon to follow at the morning worship hour.

Christmas Sunday is among the best of all times to receive a group of new members. Like Easter, it is a Sunday when most churches have a large con-

gregation. To schedule a service of reception at such a time gives a dignity and importance to it which it could not have on a "slack" Sunday. In addition, the words of the ritual of reception carry an impact which will make a strong Christian witness to the listening congregation. These words will not be lost upon those individuals in the congregation (and there are usually a number of them on this Sunday) who need to unite with the church or to renew their vows of loyalty.

The fact that *a Sunday of central importance* has been chosen for the reception of those who have been won for Christ and the Church, helps also to keep evangelism in focus as the *central task of the Church.*

Dr. Merton Rice, late great preacher of Methodism, told how he sat one Christmas Eve at his radio, trying to locate some good music. But the air seemed full of jazz only, "crashingly done from almost every station." Then, with a sudden turn of the dial, he came upon a great chorus of voices singing Handel's *Messiah.* "And," Dr. Rice said, "I held it against all the jazz in the world!"

Against all the lesser interests that would crowd it out, let us hold evangelism central during Advent.

Make Christmas Christian!

Emphasize "Christmas for Christ!"

Rediscovering Christmas, by G. Ernest Thomas
50c each; 12 or more, 35c each
A new book describing practical ways in which to make this a Christian Christmas.

Christmas for Christ in the Home **$1.50 per 100**
Specific suggestions concerning the observance of Christmas in the home. Two colors.

Christ in Christmas, by G. Ernest Thomas
$2.00 per 100
A helpful tract on the meaning of Christmas.

Keeping Christmas, by Henry Van Dyke
$1.50 per 100
Beautiful, two-color, Christmas greeting card folder.

Window Cards (3-ply cards) **5c each; 6 for 25c**

Posters (17″x22″) **10c each; 6 for 50c**
To be used in vestibules, on bulletin boards, in public places, etc.

Window Stickers (in pads of 100) **50c per 100**
For use on windows, etc. Printed on gummed side.

Auto Bumper Strips (minimum order, 50) 2 colors
50 for $6.00

Billboard Posters (Four colors) **$10.00 each**
Regular roadside billboard size—19 feet 4 inches by 8½ feet.

Lawn Signs (3x5 feet) **$5.00 each**
Beautiful six-color canvas lawn sign.

Printed Letters **$1.00 per 100**
For churches to mail to members promoting a Christian Christmas observance.

Christmas Cards (with matching envelopes)
$3.00 per 100
An attractive card folder emphasizing "Christmas for Christ."

1-column Mat **15c each**
For newspapers and printed church bulletins.

2-column Mat (for publicity) **20c each**
Give this mat to your newspaper with a Christmas news story and article.

Large Newspaper Mat **50c each**
A 2-column mat, 7 inches deep, bearing a Christmas message urging that "Christmas Is for Christ."

Celluloid Buttons (minimum order, 50)
$3.00 per 100
Bear the "Christmas Is for Christ" slogan.

TIDINGS

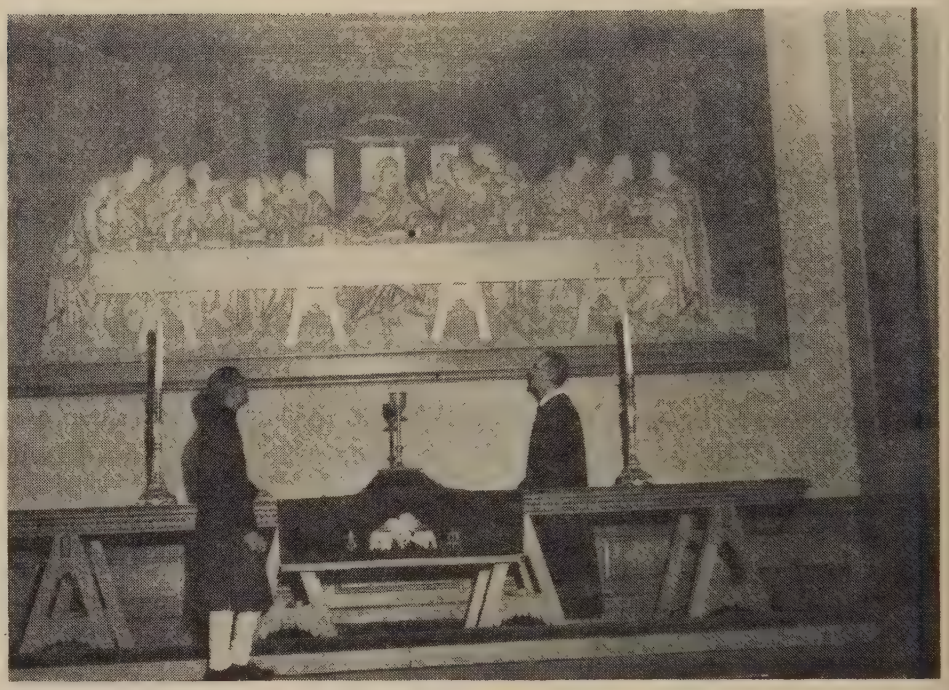
Headquarters for Evangelistic Materials

1908 Grand Avenue, Nashville 5, Tennessee

Delegates to Wo
Upper R

One of the important by-products of the Evanston Meeting was the bringing to American shores of so many prominent personalities. Here came men and women who often risked their lives to serve the Church. Here, too, came the dauntless crusaders for political, racial, and religious freedom. Many of these leaders had an opportunity to visit the Upper Room Chapel before returning to their native land.

Among these leaders was Dr. George H. Goodman of New Zealand. Dr. Goodman is pastor of the Hataitai Methodist Church in Wellington and holds many important offices in the church of New Zealand.



Canon Chandu Ray and Dr. George Goodman as they examine the famous wood carving of The Last Supper in *The Upper Room* Chapel.

Canon Chandu Ray as he brings greetings from his country in *The Upper Room* Chapel pulpit.

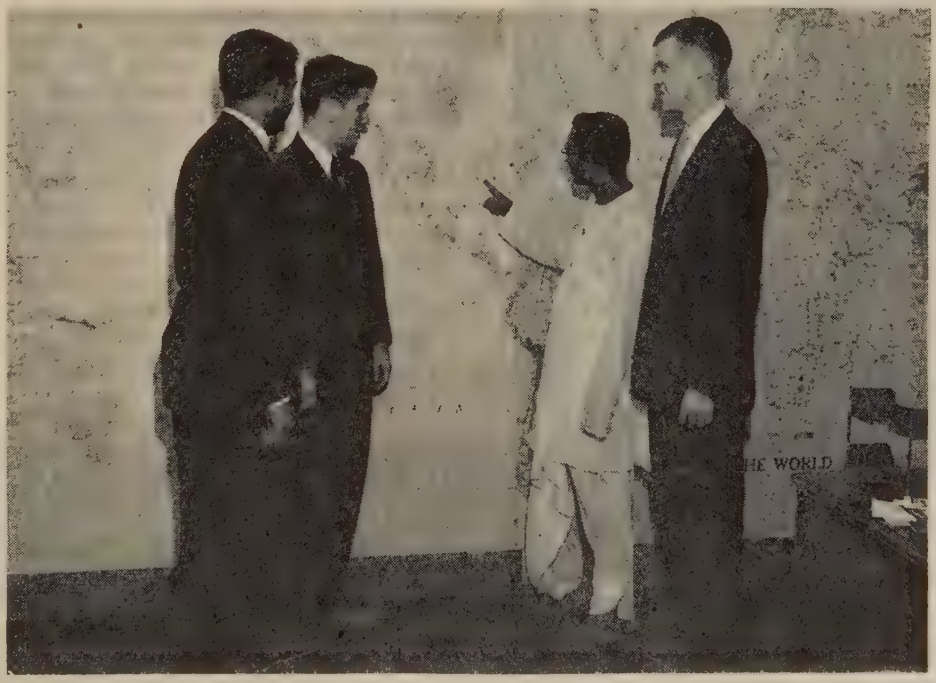
Another leader of particular significance to the readers of THE UPPER ROOM was Canon Chandu Ray, editor of the Urdu edition of THE UPPER ROOM in Pakistan. Canon Ray is secretary of the Bible Society of Pakistan, editor and manager of the Urdu edition of THE UPPER ROOM. He has translated the Bible from the original Hebrew and Greek into his native tongue, Sindhi. In order to accomplish this tremendous task, he designed the letters to be used by the monotype machine—more than 260 characters. Canon Ray read the complete proof on the Bible. He is an outstanding leader in evangelistic work. All this in addition to being Canon of the Anglican Cathedral at Lahore.

d Council Visit
m Chapel

Left to right, Dr. R. B. Lew, Mrs. R. B. Lew, and Dr. C. O. Hailwood shown examining a copy of special edition of *The Upper Room* in the editor's office, Dr. J. Manning Potts.

Another welcomed visitor on his way to the World Council of Churches Meeting in Evanston was Mr. Elia Peter. Mr. Peter is the Director of Youth Work of the Methodist Church in Southern Asia. A member of the executive committee of Youth Department of National Christian Council, he assists in editing of the Telugu edition of THE UPPER ROOM. He was a Youth Consultant to the World Council of Churches.

Other delegates to the World Council of Churches who visited the Chapel included Dr. and Mrs. R. B. Lew, President, Methodist Church in Australasia. Dr. Lew is Principal of Ladies College in Sydney, Australia. Dr. C. O. Hailwood, President-elect of the Methodist Church in New Zealand, is pastor of Methodist Church in Nelson, New Zealand.



Left to right, Augustus Dhar, Editorial Associate of *The Upper Room*, Richard Thompson, President, National Conference of Methodist Youth, Mr. Elia Peter, and Jameson Jones, Project Secretary, National Conference Methodist Youth, Staff of Division of Educational Institutions.

Evangelistic Missio

SEVENTEEN Methodist pastors left Miami International Airport on Tuesday, July 20, on a 15,000-mile Evangelistic Mission to Latin America. The Mission was sponsored jointly by the Board of World Missions and the General Board of Evangelism. It was led by Dr. G. Ernest Thomas, Director of the Spiritual Life Department of the General Board of Evangelism. The ministers represented 11 different states and 14 Annual Conferences. Their expenses were fully provided by local congregations or individuals.

The Missioners met in Miami on July 20. The day was utilized for instructions and briefings concerning the plans for the Mission, the matters which needed to be taken into consideration by anyone who travels in South America, and in spiritual undergirding for the task. Invaluable help came from Dr. James E. Ellis, representing the Board of World Missions. His instructions proved later to be very helpful.

Divide into Groups

Taking off from Miami, the group flew directly to Sao Paulo, Brazil. At Sao Paulo they divided into three groups. Eight different itineraries went into operation that day. The entire group was not together again for five weeks, joining paths at Guatemala City on August 22.

The Mission in Brazil was conducted in three centers, with five or six of the evangelists in each place. After Brazil, the Missions were conducted in each country by teams of two, three, or four men, depending on how many Schools of Evangelism were planned. Thus, a team of two went to Uruguay, four to Argentina, three to Chile, two each to Peru, Bolivia, Panama, and Costa Rica.

It was a thrilling experience to discover that the men were willing to be

Pictures, this page, reading counter-clockwise from top right:

Team at Porto Alegre with Bishop Sucasus

Rev. Robert Wisdom, director, Instituto Central do Povo, welcomes missioners at Rio de Janeiro.

Brazilian pastors participate in visitation at Porto Alegre.

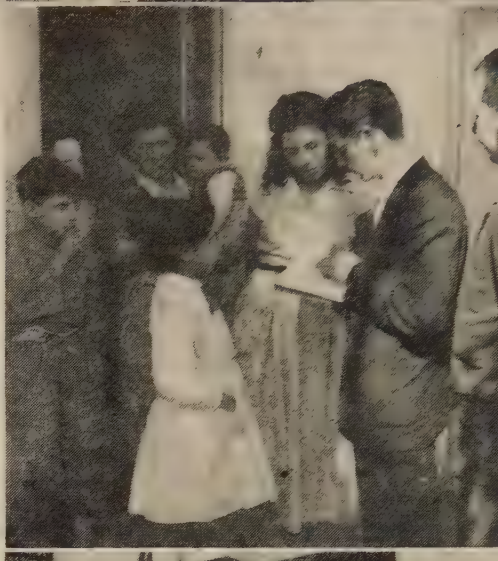
Charles W. Clay visits in Lins, Brazil.

Team in Belo Horizonte with Bishop Filho

School of Evangelism in Porto Alegre.

A national pastor leads a family in prayer at close of visit in Lins, Brazil

Latin America



used and were used in every country. Not only in the countries where they were responsible for the Mission, but in every country they visited they were busy speaking in our schools, preaching in our churches, and sharing in the Schools for Pastors.

The program in the Missions was similar to that which has been used in United Evangelistic Missions. Under the enthusiastic leadership of the five Bishops whose Areas were involved, the pastors, missionaries, some teachers, and a number of laymen met each morning for a School of Evangelism. A total of 267 attended these sessions, which included more than 93% of all our missionary and national leadership. The response was a tremendous evidence of their interest and concern for evangelism.

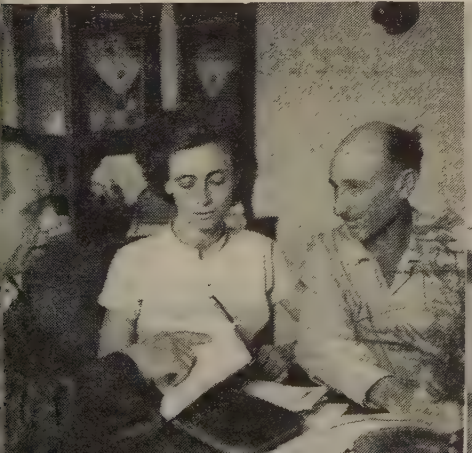
Pictures, this page, reading clockwise from top left:
Reception of new members by Bishop Dorsey during Mission at Lins, Brazil.
School of Evangelism at Belo Horizonte, Brazil.
Going out to visit in Lins, Brazil.
A national pastor visits in Porto Alegre.
School of Evangelism at Lins, Brazil.
Missioners arrive at Lima, Peru.
Family devotions in Lins, Brazil.

Except for a few leaders who had been inspired by the previous visits of Bishop Smith, Dr. Denman, and Dr. Potts, the teams were confronted by a wide-spread ignorance of how laymen could be used to visit for Christ and the Church. In no country did the teams find prospect lists, or laymen invited to participate, or any hope that laymen could secure results if they went from house to house. But they were helped by the fact that the chart, "They Went Forth—Two by Two," had been translated and printed in booklet form in both Spanish and Portuguese. The availability of the charts made it possible to proceed directly to the task of preparing the churches and training the preachers in the churches.

Missioners Face Problem

It is disappointing to report that there was very little visitation upon prospects as we, in the United States, are accustomed to think of prospects. In some of the Missions there were visits made, but almost always the visitation was of the house-to-house type, more like surveys.

(*Continued on next page*)



The Missioners faced the problem of selling the preachers on the idea of calling in homes. Probably encouraged by the Roman Catholic neglect of house-to-house visitation, the national pastors have done little or no pastoral calling. They were ready with explanations as to why they think it is impossible to go into homes: "The people do not want it"; "It is not good form for a man or men to call upon a woman in the absence of her husband"; "Whispers of immorality always accompany those who enter a home." There were other excuses offered. The evangelists had to deal with the problem as seemed best.

Yet much progress was made in promoting the idea of visitation. Scores of national pastors made decisions that they would go back to their stations or churches to put into operation a visitation program. In Chile two Districts received such inspiration that they plan to exchange preaching and visitation instruction in the weeks ahead.

The Schools of Evangelism gave the Missioners an opportunity to present the instructions, answer problems, and comment upon the reports which were brought in each day. Slowly but surely the national pastors caught a vision of the possibilities. They left—almost without exception—with a new and deeper determination to use their laymen to win men and women for Christ.

The statistical report of the Evangelistic Mission is as follows:

12 Schools of Evangelism were conducted in eight Latin American countries
267 Missionaries and pastors attended
44 Churches holding services
344 Visitors
501 First Commitments to Christ and the Church
1469 Reconsecrations
9 Decisions for Life Service

The visiting pastors made the following evaluation:

"Methodism in Latin America is striving to unify its educational, missionary, and evangelistic efforts. We noted everywhere the full cooperation of the entire missionary personnel in these endeavors. Visitation Evangelism is being tried and is coming to be accepted as a way to strengthen the churches and to extend the Kingdom of God to every class of society. Some of the intellectual and professional leaders in each country are being reached, but this group continues to be the greatest challenge to our missionary forces.

"We believe that Latin America constitutes a major challenge to Methodism in the United States. The desperate need of the people for a living faith, and the open door policy of many of the young republics, should stimulate and challenge churches, church schools, youth groups, woman's societies, and men's organizations to redouble their efforts to support World Service, the Week of Dedication, Advance Specials, and approved missionary projects. But the greatest single need is the enlistment of choice consecrated youth to teach and to preach the gospel.

"We are deeply impressed by the high quality of the missionary leadership in Latin America and by the loyalty of the national pastors. We are moved by the many evidences of sacrificial devotion. In their lives we find a fulfillment of the oft-expressed hope that the missionary movement may represent the finest Christian service that has been achieved.

"The schools and colleges established by the missionaries have been of tremendous value in raising the general educational level. As they have enriched the lives of the individual students, they have been a mighty force to open the way for Christianity.

"We reaffirm, however, that the mission of the church is primarily to lead men and women to accept Jesus Christ, and to follow Him in all relationships. We believe that all our work should be evaluated by whether it results in a personal commitment of life to the Christian faith.

"We believe that the next forward movement in Latin America should result in the construction of many new church buildings with adequate facilities and a vastly increased leadership which will challenge millions of Latin Americans with the power of the Christian gospel.

"We feel that this is an hour of unique opportunity. Delay in providing support may have disastrous results for the Kingdom of God. Pagan world forces may well extinguish Methodism's light in Latin America unless adequate reinforcements are immediately forthcoming."

The 17 Missioners, all preachers, were:

G. Ernest Thomas, Nashville, Tennessee
Roy I. Bagley, Fayetteville, Arkansas
J. Elwood Carroll, Hickory, North Carolina
W. Edgar Cathers, Coatesville, Pennsylvania
Ralph E. Davis, Maplewood, New Jersey
Franklin Duncombe, Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania
Alfred H. Freeman, Wichita Falls, Texas
Charles W. Grant, Memphis, Tennessee
J. Lester Hankins, Wellington, Kansas
Earl R. Hoggard, Wichita Falls, Texas
James M. McIntosh, Clarion, Pennsylvania
Robert F. Naylor, Albuquerque, New Mexico
Edwin Parker, Odessa, Texas
Fred G. Roebuck, Ft. Smith, Arkansas
Carlton C. Rogers, Elgin, Illinois
Everett K. Seymour, Detroit, Michigan
Wilson O. Weldon, Gastonia, North Carolina

THE TRACT OF THE MONTH FOR DECEMBER

A Christmas Creed

By Walter Russell Bowie

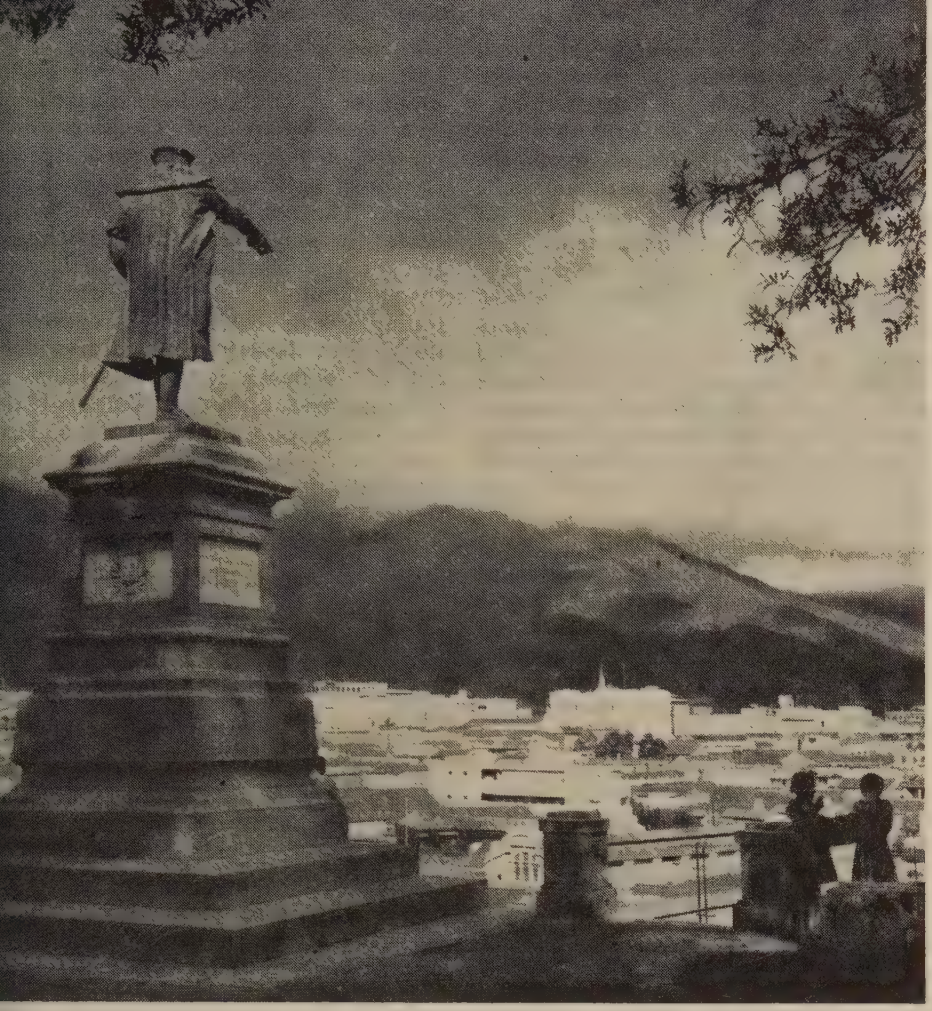
A spiritual and appreciative expression of the meaning of Christmas.

6 pages—2 colors—$2.00 per 100

(Tract-of-the-Month Club members will receive this authomatically.)

TIDINGS, 1908 Grand Ave., Nashville 5, Tenn.

Evangelical Christianity in Latin America



Statue of Christopher Columbus overlooking the beautiful modern city of Caracas, Venezuela. (Grace Line Photo)

by
Bishop Julio Manuel Sabanes
Santiago, Chile

LATIN AMERICA is calling for preachers of the true gospel. To say that Central and South America are not mission fields, that the people are Christians, that for almost five centuries the Roman Catholic Church has been sending its preachers, and that we should not in any way disturb the conscience of the people with new manners of worship or theological tendencies—to say this is to ignore the essence of the religious reality of both Americas.

Religious Conditions

Roman Catholicism in Latin America is very different from that which exists in countries that are predominantly Protestant, even from that of France. In Central and South America, Catholicism is nominal and traditional. It has much of the "miraculous" and superstitious. It has more faith in the number of prayers offered than in the spirit of prayer; more faith in scapularies than in repentant hearts; more faith in holy water than in the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. In general terms, it seeks political and economic power to limit the thought and action of the disinherited, but not the power of the Spirit to redeem consciences.

According to statistics compiled by Roman Catholic authorities, it may be said that not even 20 per cent of the inhabitants of Central America are Catholics. Another 20 per cent, at the most, merely participate in pompous ceremonies with more tendency toward worldly sociability than worship of God. With rare and honorable exceptions, Roman Catholicism does not have true knowledge of the gospel. It lacks convictions and personal experience which define it and root it in life.

The "isms" of left and right—most of them of totalitarian pattern—(among which is to be found "Vaticanism" itself) can do nothing more than aggravate the distressing problems which harass a large part of our people. Because of this, we believe that only the gospel, which "is the power of God for salvation to every one who has faith," will lead to the longed-for total redemption of the individual and, consequently, of society.

In addition to the customary preaching from the pulpit and Bible study, the following activities are carried on:

There is visitation in new homes, street-by-street, block-by-block, and house-to-house, leaving a copy of one of the Gospels, an invitation to the different services, and a folder explaining our principles. We try to carry on a conversation and encourage the people visited to invite us for another visit.

Public Meetings

There are addresses in assembly rooms other than our churches, in the open air, in stadiums in various cities where we have been able to get together about 100,000 persons, with several thousands outside, and where 3,000 copies of the Bible were sold. In another city the meeting was held in front of the City Hall, a rally entirely of evangelicals, with an attendance of some 8,000 persons. There was singing, praying, and preaching the Word.

Sometimes we have paid for a page or half page of space in the principal

daily paper of a city in order to inform the people about the Evangelical Christians: "Who are they?" "What do they believe?" "What do they do?" "What do they want?" In conclusion, we give them some statistics which show the importance of Methodism in the world, not only as to members and pastors, but also as to its institutions and schools and societies.

Where permitted to do so, we have used the radio, at times in a chain of eight different stations, to proclaim the gospel. We have denominational and interdenominational transmissions or broadcasts. There are weekly broadcasts and special broadcasts at times.

Special attention is given to literature, through the publication of native authors and translations of works of foreigners. Magazines, quarterlies, folders, and periodicals are also printed.

Only the statistics of the angels can show accurately the results of the conscientious and silent labor which is carried on in our schools, as far as evangelization is concerned, through the different types of activities in the school and the personal work with students and their families. We have Seminaries, Bible Schools, Old People's Homes, Children's Homes, Work Exchanges, Good Will Industries, and Rural Work, with their respective schools.

There is also personal work through conversation, systematic visitation, correspondence, use of the telephone with those who are merely interested, with persons associated with the church by baptism or marriage, and with relations of deceased persons, etc.

What Are the Results?

1. *There is a sense of personal religion.* Inherited religion wields an influence, but it is not sufficient for life. There is need of personal experience of the transformation of life and of the power and joy one experiences when he lives in harmony with God's Spirit.

2. *The religious life is one of high ethical standards.* One cannot love God and, at the same time, ignore the human problem. Nor can one love all men and, at the same time, be a narrow nationalist, a devotee of race, class, or lucre. Nor can he be a toper, nor engaged in a business of doubtful morality. Nor may he consider himself a "saviour" of his country unless he has previously felt himself saved by Christ. True Christians enjoy a wholesome life in all spheres of human activities.

3. *An intense desire for study and analysis has been created.* "The faith of the peddler" is not accepted. Emotion does not suffice. To show "the white of the eyes" at Christmas and during Holy Week is not enough. Nor is it sufficient just to take the pastor's word for it. One must "think and let think." He must experience the rapture of the eternal wisdom which enlightens the mind and blots out the sardonic smile of doubt with a joyous affirmation of the truth discovered and tasted.

4. *People have discovered that religion is not only the pulpit from which comes preaching and the altar before which we worship* (as honorable and worthy as these may be), *but also a workshop in which one labors and acquires dozens of forms by means of which the Spirit of the Eternal Christ expands in irresistible currents of holy transformation.* Religion is homes for children and old persons; mutual aid societies; consumer and producer cooperatives; libraries; shops; rural work; vocational schools; relief stations; and organized and valiant campaigns against social evils, against dictatorships and tyrannies, whatever may be their origins or pretexts.

5. *The Roman Catholic Church has been compelled to change its tactics.* Yesterday the reading of the Bible was prohibited. Today that Church recommends it and publishes it, though with notes and at a high price. Yesterday the Roman Church excommunicated those who did not bow to it. Today that Church doesn't do that because even the children smile at these excommunications. Yesterday the Roman Church imposed its will in national politics. Today it seeks support in official circles, but finds less support every new day. Yesterday the Roman Church talked about miraculous appearances of the Virgin and of the life of the saints. Today, although within the mentality of the Vatican, it preaches more of the gospel.

6. *The Roman Catholic Church has changed its attitude toward sectarian forces.* Yesterday the evangelicals were considered an exotic group, rare, at best, bearers of a religion fairly good for the Saxons Johnson, Andermatten, Frederickson, and Miller, but never for the Latins Perez, Fernandes, Turcatti, and Lombardini. Today evangelicals are found in the front ranks among professionals, university professors, deans of faculties, representatives in national parliaments, journalists, etc. Some of them, after death, have been signally honored in having streets and parks named after them. To speak today of an evangelical Christian is, in general terms, to speak of a person who does his own thinking, who proceeds with clear honesty, and who knows that heaven must begin "here" and "now," without detriment, of course, to the innumerable manifestations of divine grace for which the redeemed have hope.

7. *The evangelical Churches have exerted a powerful influence in the change of national and provincial legislation.* The separation of Church and State; the public school; the civil register for the inscription of births and the performing of marriages, which yesterday was the exclusive prerogative of the clergy; the rights of children born out of wedlock; the secularizing of the cemeteries; the restriction of the liquor traffic and gambling; the outlawing of wars for exploitation and privilege—all these are factors of public welfare in which the evangelical forces directly or indirectly have cooperated.

What of the Future?

1. *Deepen the Christian conscience.* We are never sufficiently evangelical. We are still in the A, B, C of the Sermon on the Mount. Being better Christians is the best antidote against the "isms" which we have and will have.

2. *Develop a more effective practice of Christian stewardship of time, energy, and money.*

3. *Stimulate "Christian vocations."* Encourage the young men and young women of our churches to rise above the material allurements which meet them in life and to dedicate themselves, body, mind, and spirit, to the service of the cause of Christ, answering the call which God makes to each according to his or her personal fitness.

4. *Deepen the sense of responsibility for arriving at self-support.* For reasons of gratitude to God and to our mother church, for refinement and gracefulness of the youth "becoming of age," we should not keep on thinking so "sweetly" of "the Mission," but rather more clear-sightedly of our own wallets and pocketbooks.

5. *Develop the missionary spirit in our congregations so that they can hear from each nearby city and town and from each nation the call: "Come over to Macedonia and help us," and send help and support to our own missionaries.*

6. *Put less emphasis in the sermon on the negative aspects of the religious, social, or political tendencies contrary to the gospel, and emphasize a more intense life of the Spirit in our lives and institutions;* so that if the Sermon on the Mount be lost, it may be reconstructed with two Christian lives.

7. *Encourage an uncompromising attitude in the face of the arrogance and threats of all totalitarian forces.*

8. *Maintain an irrevocable and joyous faith in God.*

A New Church in Memphis

by J. W. Golden

Department of Negro Work

IT IS SAID that a million people are moving annually. In this shifting population, thousands are going from the open country and small towns to large cities and industrial centers. This makes it necessary for us, in many rural communities and small towns, to merge some of our churches and to create the larger parish plan whereby one minister serves five, six, or seven churches. Nor is this difficult in these days of good roads and high-powered vehicles. In fact, this condition has actually brought increased evangelistic opportunities to our urban communities, especially to the educational centers and industrial areas of our cities where large new housing areas are being developed.

Unusual Opportunities

This is particularly true of the rapidly growing city of Memphis, Tennessee, located so strategically in the center of the tri-state area of Tennessee, Arkansas, and Mississippi and so accessible by railroad, bus line, and highway.

In cooperation with Dr. H. H. Jones, the District Superintendent, the writer, a number of pastors, and some of their members made a partial survey in one of the new communities in this city. We found unusual evangelistic opportunities revealing real need for the Church. This community, where 1,500 homes were being built and sold, with an excellent school building about completed, was very anxious for a church to be located there so that religious training could be provided in church school. Some adults were ready to become charter members of the church.

The resident Bishop, Bishop M. W. Clair, Jr., was contacted. He was favorably impressed and gave the "go" sign as well as assistance.

With the help of the Board of Missions and Church Extension, our Centenary Methodist Church, of which D. M. Grisham is pastor, assumed the responsibility of securing the loan to purchase a Methodist church and beautiful site from one of our white congregations of the Memphis Conference. At present, this is known as Centenary Mission. Mr. Grisham is acting pastor. The first two services were held with members of our Centenary, Warren, Bethel, and Burdette churches and their pastors—Rev. D. M. Grisham, Rev. L. P. M. Robinson, Rev. B. S. Pegues, and Rev. D. W. Simmons, respectively—being present, along with many visitors from this new community.

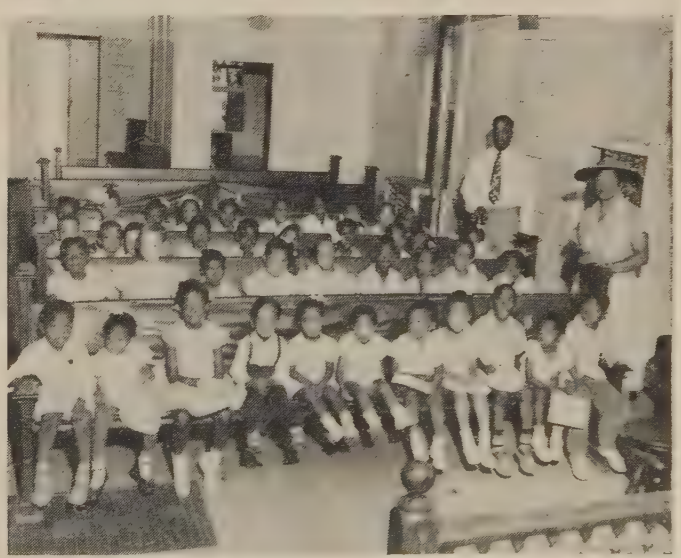
The 70-E Young Minister Comes

The General Board of Evangelism is conducting an unusual, but what is believed to be one of the most significant and far-reaching, evangelistic efforts of our times. In this effort 70 young ministers, chosen from our Theological Seminaries across the country, were given two weeks of special training at Park College, Missouri, in the various methods of evangelism. Called the Seventy (70) Evangelists, they have been sent into churches and communities across the United States. One of these, James Lyles, has been placed in the new church project at Memphis.

The Sunday before he came, 21 members were received. On his first Sunday the churches of the city, with their choirs and visitors, made up the congregation. Mr. Lyles preached with an earnestness and spiritual fervor conducive to real worship. This service and the three preceding services were in the

A group of parents and children are received into the new Centenary Church, Memphis, Tennessee, James Lyles, one of the 70-E men, pastor.

A group of beginners in the new church school, Centenary Church, Memphis.



afternoon. But on this date the people started a Sunday school and left this young 70-E man in charge to begin his promotional work for Sunday school at 9:30 and preaching service at 11:00 A.M.

Thrilling Success

The fifth service for the Centenary Mission, including the Sunday school, was a thrilling success. The writer had sent a supply of literature for three classes. This proved to be only about half enough. The people had to order an extra supply after the second day. The accompanying picture shows the classes (adults, intermediates, and primaries), in which there were 72; the District Superintendent; the 70-E man, James Lyles, in charge and acting Sunday school superintendent; three teachers, and the writer. Also pictured are new members being received into the church, parents with children, all of whom were in the Sunday school. Goal for the summer is 100 members in church and an equal number in church school.

This is the combined church school group on July 18, the second Sunday after opening the new church, Centenary Mission, at Memphis. Rev. Lyles, the 70-E man; J. W. Golden, Associate Secretary and Director; and the District Superintendent, H. H. Jones, are shown in this group outside the church building that was purchased from a white Methodist Church.

This is only one of the many major successes achieved through the help of our established churches. We call upon other strong churches of all Jurisdictions to help do similar work in other communities.

Church Attendance Packet

Contains Basic Materials for Complete Crusade

New materials have been created for this Crusade, and some existing materials have been re-shaped and adapted.

Because of this, a packet has been carefully worked out containing the recommended and necessary quantities of all basic materials, and the packets vary in quantities of materials according to the size of a church.

Each packet contains sufficient materials for the thorough promotion of a Church Attendance Crusade for a church of its size. For example: Packet No. 1 contains sufficient materials for the training of the visitors, for advertising and conducting the Crusade, and 100 covenant cards, 100 church attendance record cards, etc., because it is designed for a church of 100 members. Similarly, Packet No. 1½ contains 150 covenant cards and attendance pledge cards, and Packet No. 2 contains 200 such cards and other materials in proportionate quantities.

Only 3c per Member

Although each of these packets contains 16 different items, in necessary quantities, the price of each packet is within the reach of every church—only 3c per member—and the extra attendance and loyalty generated will bring enough extra financial returns to more than pay for the packet. But don't order a packet for that reason. Order it for the good of your church and the glory of God.

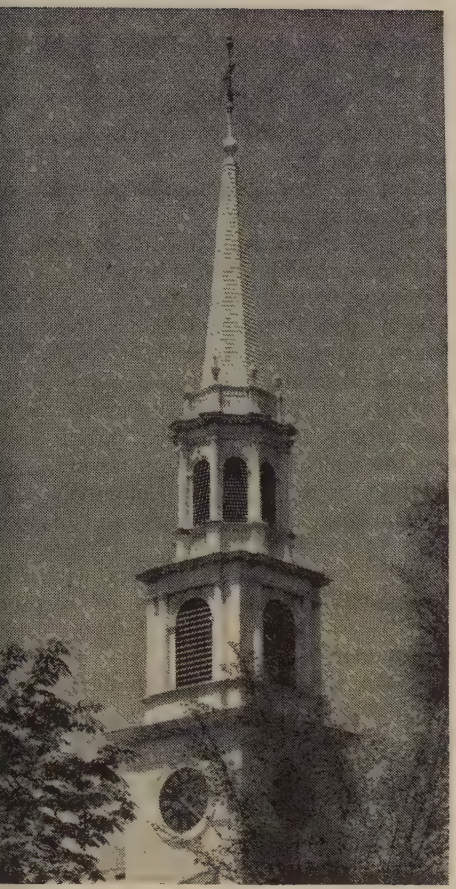
(Order Packet Nearest Your Church Membership)

	Church Membership	*Price*
No. 1	100	$ 3.00
No. 1½	150	4.50
No. 2	200	6.00
No. 2½	250	7.50
No. 3	300	9.00
No. 3½	350	10.50
No. 4	400	12.00
No. 4½	450	13.50
No. 5	500	15.00
No. 5½	550	16.50
No. 6	600	18.00
No. 6½	650	19.50
No. 7	700	21.00
No. 7½	750	22.50
No. 8	800	24.00
No. 8½	850	25.50
No. 9	900	27.00
No. 9½	950	28.50
No. 10	1,000	30.00

TIDINGS

Headquarters for Evangelistic Materials

1908 Grand Avenue, Nashville 5, Tennessee



IN EVERY CHURCH A

God Is Our Strength

CHURCH ATTENDANCE CRUSADE

THE MOST important feature of the church program is the Sunday worship service. This is a high hour when pastor and people gather to share in the means of grace which the Church supplies.

Worship challenges men to confess their sins, reaffirm their faith, and rededicate their lives to God's high purpose. When men worship together remarkable things happen. Thus, there are many values in a church attendance crusade in addition to increased church loyalty and attendance.

1. Church school attendance increased
2. Offerings enlarged for local church expenses and missions
3. New prospects for church and church school membership discovered
4. Inactive and indifferent members reclaimed
5. The church and its program kept before the people for a protracted period
6. New members brought into the church fellowship
7. A new interest developed on the part of church members in those outside the church
8. Much information provided for pastoral calls
9. A spiritual revitalization of the church promoted
10. The laymen given a sense of responsibility for the program of the church

Objectives

1. To increase regular church attendance
2. To activate indifferent church members:
   - To become consistent in attendance at worship services
   - To enroll them in church school, Woman's Societies, Men's Club, Youth Groups, etc.
3. To exalt the place of church worship in Christian experience
4. To lift up the importance of preaching the gospel
5. To visit and invite non-church families to share in the services of the church and to become members of the church school, the Woman's Society, Youth Groups, etc.
6. To recapture the power of Christian fellowship

Features

There are five major features in the setup of an organized Church Attendance Crusade:

1. PROMOTION

   The following publicity and promotion media may be utilized:

   (1) Newspapers
   (2) Church letters and bulletins
   (3) Radio and TV
   (4) Billboards
   (5) Movie trailers on church attendance
   (6) Posters—window stickers—bumper strips for automobiles—letterheads—gummed stamps—door-knob cards—table grace cards, etc.
   (7) Active support of community groups—civic clubs
   (8) Cooperation of all churches in the community or District in a Crusade
   (9) "Minute Speakers" before organizations in church and community

2. VISITATION

   Personal visitation by teams of lay people is essential to the success of the Crusade. Pastors are

unanimous in declaring that this is the most important single feature.

3. Worship—Special Sermons

"Christianity must shed light on the meaning of life—give strength for the living of life."
—Ralph W. Sockman

- Plan carefully every service
- Plan special series of Sunday evening services. If community custom or other circumstances militate against Sunday night services, try a series of late afternoon vesper services

4. Registration

On each Sunday of the Crusade there should be a registration of all persons in attendance at the worship services. This provides an accurate record of church members present. Absentee members should be contacted during the week by the follow-up committee. The registration also helps the pastor discover new prospects for church membership.

5. Certificate of Loyalty

Fifteen weeks are covered by the intensive period —Jan. 2 through Easter. An optional feature is that of presenting a Certificate of Loyalty to each person who has perfect attendance (at least one church service each Sunday). A sample of this Certificate of Loyalty is included in the Tidings Church Attendance Packet, and churches may order the quantity desired.

Theme

An attractive and challenging theme is a *must* for an effective Church Attendance Crusade. It offers a focal point for publicity. It gets attention. It carries a message. It calls for action.

The theme for the 1955 Nation-wide Crusade is:

Time Table

1. *As early as possible*
   - Enlist the support of the Official Board.
   - Get the dates for the Crusade into the church calendar.
   - Ask the Board to make provision for adequate funds.
2. *Six weeks in advance*
   - Promote a slogan.
   - Decide on publicity materials.
   - Order all necessary organizational and publicity materials.
   - Appoint and inform all committees.
   - Select date for meeting within two weeks.
3. *Four weeks in advance*
   - Have a general meeting of all committees—plan of the Crusade outlined by pastor.
   - Divide into separate committees to initiate work of the committees as outlined in this booklet.
   - Distribute materials to the committees.
   - Let the Publicity and Promotion Committee outline its program and responsibilities.
   - Let the Visitation Committee select persons to be enlisted as friendly visitors. Arrange for preparation of membership lists. Divide the parish into units. Set time for visitors' instruction period.
   - Let the Registration and Follow-up Committee and Fellowship Committee initiate plans and assign responsibilities.
   - Let the Pastor discuss worship services with his committees and outline special series of sermon topics.
4. *Three weeks in advance*
   - Place story of the Crusade in newspapers, with names of all committees.
   - Let the Visitation Committee call on and enlist friendly visitors.
   - Have "Minute Speakers" in all church services and organizations.
5. *Two weeks in advance*
   - Run movie trailers in theaters.
   - Publicize the Crusade on Radio and TV programs.
   - Prepare lists of non-church families to be assigned to friendly visitors.
   - Send letter to friendly visitors reminding them of instruction conference.
   - Send a letter to each family in the membership and constituency urging attendance. Enclose a suitable leaflet.
6. *One week before Crusade opens*
   - Have "Minute Speakers" in all services and organizations.
   - Have Instruction Conference on Sunday afternoon, 2:00-3:00. Send out friendly visitors with assignments. Calls to be completed by Wednesday.
   - Have Visitors' Report Meeting Wednesday night.
   - Complete all details of publicity program.
   - Determine plan for registration at worship services and follow-up of absentee members.
7. *Opening Sunday*
   - Have Fellowship Committee in readiness and Ushers instructed.
   - Let the Bulletin carry all special notices.
   - Register the attendance of congregation.
   - Use lay "Minute Speakers."
   - Let the Follow-Up Committee plan visits on absentees.
8. *Each Week of Crusade*
   - Register attendance each Sunday.
   - Arrange follow-up visits, telephone calls, or "we missed you" cards for each absentee member.
   - Continue and intensify publicity and promotion. Stories in newspaper on success of Crusade.
   - Let the Fellowship Committee plan special features.
   - Make pastoral calls on those who are consistently absent.

How to Organize a Local Church

"God Is Our Strength"

Church Attendance Crusade

THE organization of the Crusade in the local church is the responsibility of the *Commission or Committee on Membership and Evangelism.* Specific responsibility should be assigned to the *Committee on Church Attendance.* The Commission or Committee determines the policies of the Crusade, appoints the necessary committees, and gives general supervision.

Duties of the Commission or Committee

1. SUPPORT OF THE OFFICIAL BOARD

The Committee should present the plan of the Crusade to the Official Board and secure its approval and support. This places every organization and group in the church behind the program. The Board should make provision for adequate funds to purchase necessary materials.

2. DATES

A period of three months is recommended for the most effective crusade, January through Easter.

Worship is a tremendous experience. It challenges men to confess their sins, reaffirm their faith, and rededicate their lives to God's high purpose. When men worship together, remarkable things happen.

The recommended three-month period allows time for the Crusade to make its greatest impact upon the church and community.

Publicity and Promotion Committee

PERSONNEL

Chairman (Young Adult Layman)
Church Lay Leader
Church School Superintendent
President of Woman's Society, Men's Club, and Youth Group
Others as needed

PURPOSE

(1) *Publicize* the Church Attendance Crusade through all available media.

- √ Send a letter to each member urging cooperation and attendance.
- √ Prepare stories for local newspapers.
- √ Arrange for paid or sponsored advertising.
- √ Secure mats from TIDINGS carrying Crusade slogan.
- √ Use the church bulletin.
- √ Secure Radio and TV time.
  - Use panel of laymen to discuss "Why I Go to Church," or "God Is Our Strength."
  - Provide spot news on the Crusade.
  - Secure spot announcement platter.
  - Furnish TV spots and church attendance films.
- √ Secure space on large billboards. Order billboard posters.
- √ Arrange for movie trailers on Church Attendance in local theaters.
- √ Put up posters and window cards.
- √ Distribute window stickers for homes, stores, and automobiles. Also give eating establishments table graces and stamps for menu stickers.
- √ Secure special letterheads, and gummed stamps carrying slogan.

(The Keister Advertising Service of Strasburg, Virginia, has a splendid series of newspaper advertisements, in two sizes, stressing church attendance. Approximately 900 news-

papers throughout the nation run these ads regularly. An inquiry addressed to the Keister Service will bring information as to how to secure these ads for use in your local newspapers.)

(2) *Promote* the Crusade through all organizations and groups in the church and community.
- √ Get the Crusade into every phase of the church program.
- √ Arrange for "Minute Speakers" at church services, organizations, and activities.
- √ Enlist community groups, civic clubs, luncheon clubs, etc., to promote the Crusade.
- √ Distribute leaflets on church attendance.
- √ Should some local civic group be promoting the Crusade on the community level, many of these publicity responsibilities would be that group's prerogative.
- √ In event of civic group promotion, the Pastor and Chairman of the Publicity and Promotion Committee would serve as representatives of the local church, thus avoiding duplication of publicity items.

Visitation Committee

PERSONNEL

Chairman, selected by the Commission
Secretary, who will keep records of visitation
Chairman of Woman's Society Visitation Committee
Home Department Superintendent
Chairman of Youth Evangelism Committee
Other persons needed

PURPOSE

(1) Plan a friendly visitation on all church members to promote church attendance.
- √ Prepare complete lists of church membership and divide into geographical areas.
- √ From the Church Rolls, including the Constituency and Prospect Rolls, place the name and address of each member, constituent, and prospect, by families, on the "Church Attendance Visitor's Assignment Cards." These cards become the assignments for the visitors on the days that the organized visitation is made.
- √ Enlist friendly visitors—one team for each 10 families.
- √ Secure training materials and arrange at least one session of instruction for visitors.
- √ Receive reports on visits made. Give important information to the pastor.
- √ Secure the *Door Knob Visitor's Cards*—to be left where family is not at home. These are in the regular packet.

(2) Plan friendly visits on *non-church families* to invite them to attend the church services and to become members of the church organizations.
- √ Where possible, assign these families to church families for friendly cultivation.
- √ Compile lists of prospects for membership.
- √ Distribute leaflets and THE UPPER ROOM.
- √ Secure *Door Knob Visitor's Cards* to be left where families are not home.

(3) Work with Registration and Follow-up Committee to call on absentee members.

(4) Hold an Instruction Session for Friendly Visitors.
- √ Hold session on Sunday afternoon—2:00-3:00.
- √ Let the pastor give the training, using the leaflet —"Instructions for Visitors."
- √ If the plan involves use of the "Church Loyalty Covenant" (attendance pledge) card, which is contained in the packet and is the very heart of the Crusade endeavor, instruct the visitors in the technique of securing pledges of attendance.
- √ If the plan involves use of the "My Record of Attendance" card, which is also in the packet, ask the visitors to hand each member and constituent a card with the explanation that the use of this card will help him to check on his own attendance, and will inspire him to attend each Sunday. Ask him to bring his filled out card to church when the Crusade is over and hand it in.
- √ Ask the visitors to leave a window sticker in each home with the request that the sticker be placed on the front door or a front window of the home, as an influence for good upon all who pass by or visit the home.
- √ If a leaflet or THE UPPER ROOM is to be left in the home, suggest that, upon leaving, the visitors give it to the persons being visited, with some such statement as, "We are sure that you will take pleasure in reading this, and that you will want to share it with all others in the home."
- √ Distribute assignment envelopes.

  Each assignment envelope is to contain the following:

  a. "Church Attendance Visitor's Assignment Cards," containing the names and addresses of all the persons the team is to visit.

  b. A "Church Loyalty Covenant" card for each person to be visited.

  c. A "My Church Attendance Record" card for each person to be visited.

  d. A window sticker containing the slogan of the Church Attendance Crusade, for every home to be visited.

  e. A few Door Knob Visitor's Cards.

  f. Any leaflets that are to be delivered into the homes, if the envelopes can hold them. It may be better to give these to the visitors separately.
- √ Explain the use of the *Door Knob Visitor's Card*—which should be left where families are not at home. However, these homes should be visited later in the follow-up visitation before Wednesday night.
- √ Give out materials.
- √ Go at once to visit.

(5) Have a visitor's report meeting on Wednesday night, with all calls completed.

(6) Assign teams to geographical areas for follow-up calls each week on absentee members.

Plan NOW to Follow Up Your

Church Attendance Crusade

THE Church Attendance Crusade will reveal new service opportunities, new leadership personnel, new membership prospects, and new spiritual vitality in the life of church. These should not be neglected and lost when the usade ends. The Commission on Membership and Evangism should plan a continuation program which will serve the results of the Crusade.

1. Plan a visitation evangelism program through which the new person may be won to Christ and church membership.
2. Work out a plan for a continuous systematic visitation of the church membership, using the Unit Plan of organization.
3. Use newly discovered leaders in service for the church.
4. Continue the work of the "Fellowship Committee."
5. Plan for an annual Church Attendance Crusade.
6. Continue to have spiritually vital worship services and challenging sermons.
7. Continue the promotion and publicity of the church and its program.
8. Keep evangelism at the center of the church life.

Registration and Follow-up Committee

RSONNEL

Chairman, selected by the Commission
Secretary, who will keep records of attendance of members and prepare lists of absentees for follow-up calls
Assistant Secretary
Chairman of Visitation Committee
Others as needed

RPOSE

(1) Register attendance—Secure attendance registration cards (50¢ per 100, $2.25 per 500, $4.00 per 1,000 from TIDINGS) and arrange registration of entire congregation each Sunday.
(2) Keep attendance records of church members.
(3) Prepare lists of absentee members by geographical areas and send them to the friendly visitors.
(4) Visitors make follow-up calls personally or by telephone. This is a very important feature of the Crusade.
(5) Secure and keep up to date the "Record of Attendance Chart" for the church. (In the packet.)
(6) Report illnesses to pastor.
(7) Enlist shut-ins to pray for the services.

Fellowship Committee

PERSONNEL

Chairman, selected by the Commission
Chairman Woman's Society Fellowship Committee
Chairman Youth Committee on Fellowship
Head Usher
Other persons as needed

PURPOSE

(1) Cultivate the spirit of fellowship and friendliness in all church services and organizations.
(2) Appoint persons to greet guests and newcomers at doors on Sunday.
(3) Ask visitors to sign the Guest Book.
(4) Provide "Fellowship Friends" for new church members.
(5) Plan a series of fellowship dinners for members and friends of the church.
(6) Arrange a "coffee hour" following the Sunday morning or evening service.
(7) Promote the "Fill the Pew Plan" for Sunday nights. See booklet which is in packet.

Operation Membership

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Rea, volunteer callers, signing up at the schedule board, with Mr. Earl Sweesy, chairman of the survey, looking on.

RIDGEWOOD METHODIST CHURCH, Parma, Ohio, recently made use of the telephone to take a religious census of its community. Paul M. Ward, pastor, reports on the project as follows:

1. "We set up a communications center in our church school library. The telephone company *installed six telephones* for us for a period of one month, and we placed all the phones around one large table in this room. The advantages of the procedure were proved in two ways: it simplified the supervision of telephoning; and the people calling together created a greater interest and spirit of camaraderie, eliminating any monotony as the callers shared special comments from the other end of the lines.

2. "Also, we secured a *Street Address Telephone Directory* from our telephone company. The committee then selected the streets nearest the church, and gradually extended to a larger area as the calling continued. The listings for the streets were cut out and pasted on separate sheets (pages were numbered consecutively). This system made it possible for more people to call at one time.

3. "To secure the volunteers for the telephone calls, one of our men built a large chart, 4 ft. by 8 ft., which we set up in the narthex of our church. The schedule covered a period of two weeks from Monday through Friday, divided into the daily shifts: 10:00-11:30 A.M.; 1:30-3:00 P.M.; 3:30-5:00 P.M.; and 7:00-9:00 P.M. The chairman had someone stationed at the chart after all of the church services and wrote the names on the chart. It worked out that, in addition to individual volunteers, the senior MYF volunteered to take the period from 3:30 to 5:00 each day of the two weeks. Each circle of W.S.C.S. signed up for one morning. The men were cooperative in signing up for evening calls.

"When the six people arrived for each shift, simple

Paul M. Ward, minister (left), and Delbert S. Beach, chairman of the Commission on Membership and Evangelism, discuss plans for the telephone survey and visitation.

A view of Ridgewood Methodist Church.

Telephone

structions were given, and a mimeographed copy of the eneral information and method of calling, plus one of ie street address sheets, were placed in front of each erson. As the calls on one sheet were completed, that ieet was exchanged for another.

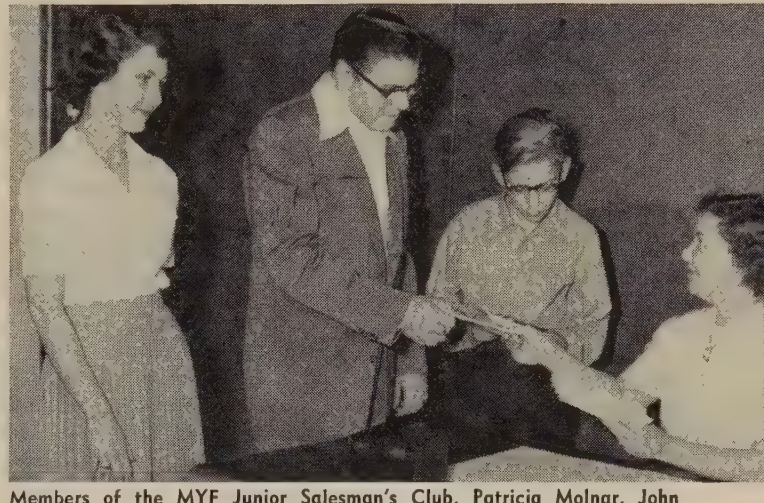
4. "When the calling had been completed, the pros- ect cards were turned over to our chairman of the Com- ission on Membership and Evangelism, who in turn set up week of concentrated visitation, during which time the rospects were called on and invited to come to Ridge- ood Methodist Church. *This visitation was made within vo weeks after the telephone survey.*

"This was a project of the Commission on Membership nd Evangelism, with all the leadership and participation arried through by laymen—from the very 'go' in the itial planning to the instructions from 'The Chart' for ie lay visitors, preparatory to their calling in the homes f the prospects.

5. "The 163 volunteers that manned the telephones uring the two weeks' period made 7,245 calls, and se- ured 526 prospects. During the special week of visitation, ie teams of visitors met together for dinner and instruc- ions Sunday noon, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thurs- ay, and Friday evenings. From the 526 prospects, visits ere made in 313 homes, and 93 commitments were se- ured. Immediately following the survey the attendance in he church school and worship services increased 20%."

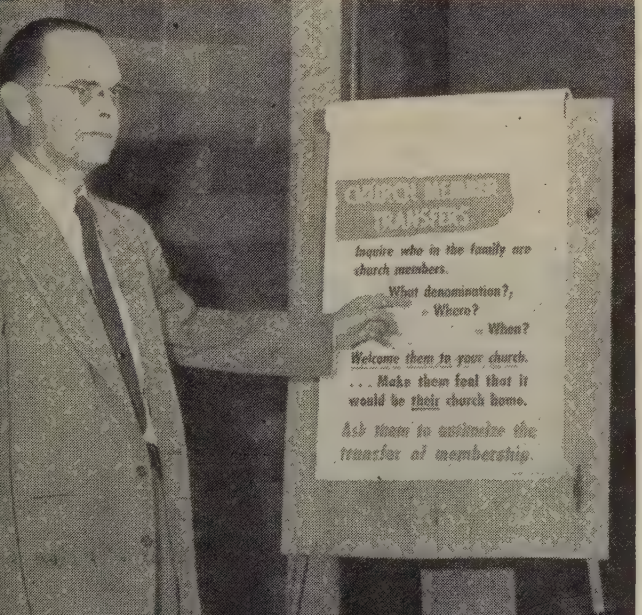
The revised edition of the Tidings booklet, "The Re- igious Census," contains a plan for organizing a telephone ensus. Pastors and churches may obtain this booklet for 0¢ a copy, 6 for 50¢, from TIDINGS, *1908 Grand Avenue, Jashville 5, Tennessee.*

Communications center in the church library. Left to right, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Zeller; Mr. Earl Sweesy, Chairman of the telephone survey; Deanne Latimer and John Ricketts, MYF members; and Mr. and Mrs. James Carr.

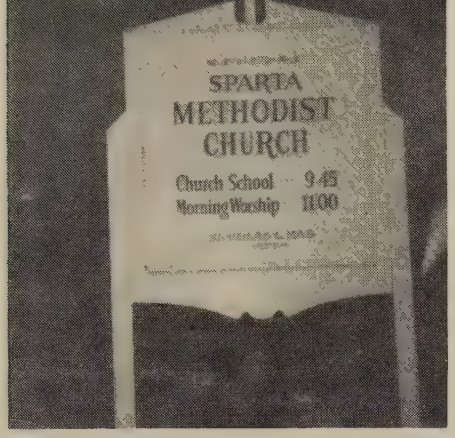


Members of the MYF Junior Salesman's Club, Patricia Molnar, John Ricketts, and David Wagner, receive assignments from Mrs. Frederick Smith, superintendent of the Youth Division.

Mr. Delbert S. Beach, chairman of the Commission on Membership nd Evangelism, gives visitation instructions from the Visitation vangelism chart, "They Went Forth—Two by Two."


Inquire who in the family are church members.
What denomination?
Where?
When?
Welcome them to your church.
. . . Make them feel that it would be their church home.
Ask them to estimate the transfer of membership.

Mr. James Dowell, lay leader, and Mr. Ernest Graham, church school superintendent, receive prospect cards for visitation from Mrs. Delbert S. Beach, secretary of the Commission on Membership and Evangelism.



Church Attendance Crusade Doubles Congregation

by George Scheitlin
Chairman, Commission on
Membership and Evangelism
Sparta, New Jersey

THIS story begins in our official board meeting in December, 1953 —the second Thursday night. Our new minister, Nicholas G. Mas, was at his first meeting with the officials. When he suggested that we follow the "Give God a Chance NOW" program, the Church Attendance Crusade, the board voted to go ahead with the program. I should add here that I was not then a member of the church and that the first part of the Crusade was launched under the direction of Miss Metta E. Baeszler, then chairman of the Commission on Membership and Evangelism. It was really to her credit that we got off to such a good start!

The next approach in our development of the Crusade was a letter from our District Superintendent, Olin Y. Shute, of the Western District, Newark Conference, New York Area. This letter was requested and received by Miss Metta E. Baeszler. It was sent out—along with a letter from the Commission on Membership and Evangelism and the minister—to the entire membership. Then news articles were sent to the local community paper, *The Lake Mohawk Papoose;* the county paper, *The New Jersey Herald* (30,000 possible readers); and, for state coverage, to *The Newark Evening News!* The radio station used the records. A telephone committee went to work on calls weekly. The mailing committee sent out the specified literature. The heads of all organizational and interest groups met after each service and "screened" the registration cards for all absentees. Then these separate groups "shepherded" their absentees by contacts during the week. We asked the group heads to let the Commission know who? what? why? concerning absenteeism so we could work through the "bottle neck" and better meet "interests" and "needs."

By head count and by card, an attendance registration count was kept weekly. We actually saw the church attendance go up 100% over the previous period in other years—in spite of ice and snow!

We began to take in members so fast that the official board suggested we stop and develop a program of assimilation. A training conference was set up during the months of January and February—bringing in visiting ministers and laymen from other churches which had had successful evangelistic programs—to tell us how it had been done and what results had been obtained. There was a *lecture,* then discussion, then *action!* After one session the laymen, on their own initiative, established a free taxi service for the membership. The minister then announced that all members received by letter, vow, or profession of faith would be received into a preparatory membership status, enrolled in a three-months Religious Instruction Class taught by the minister, and then received into full connection at the end of the quarter.

On Palm Sunday we received over 80 persons into the membership of our church—we had started with a Conference *Journal* count of 152—and we had more than 100 applications for membership pending. In other words, we had 180, or better than double the membership!

At our Annual Church Conference our church voted to increase the budget by several thousand dollars so we could do more for Christian causes. We also raised our minister's income by $1,320.

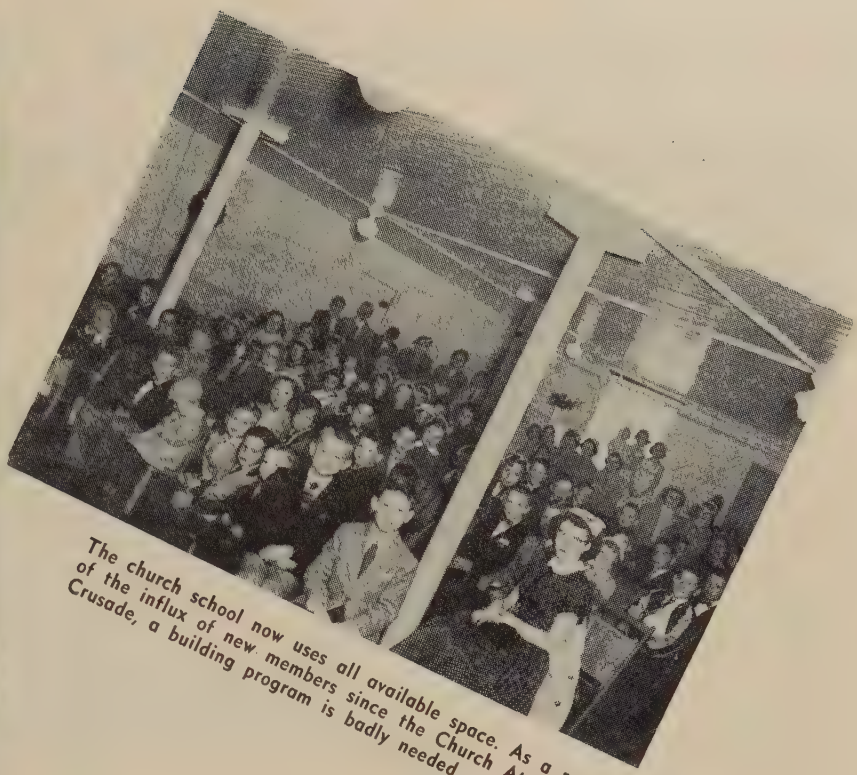
Much of our lay leadership is coming now from our new members. I am one of them.

As an outgrowth of our program of assimilation, our church initiated and promoted the *first* community-wide nonsectarian *Easter Dawn Service* to be held in our town. This wonderful experience was the direct result of the sincere interest one of our new members had in such an occasion. I am happy to report that this venture was a great success. There were approximately 400 people in attendance, and the praise of the program was tremendous and unanimous. We can happily say that the Easter Dawn Service will be a permanent event in the Lenten calendar of our community in the years to come.

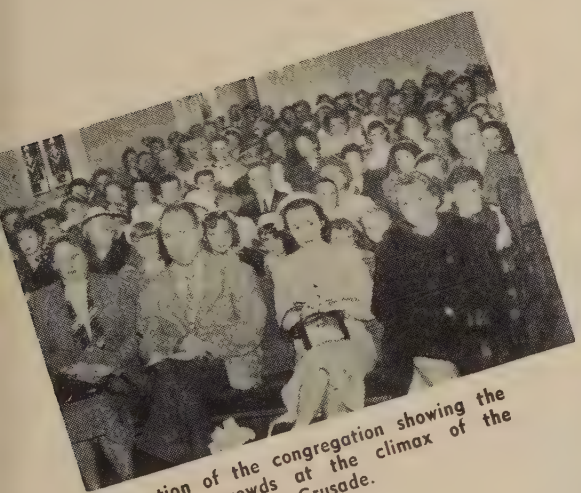
Because of the influx of new members, and because of the lack of space, we are planning a building program soon.

Crowds are shown leaving the church. There has been a 100 per cent increase in attendance over previous years as a result of the Crusade.

typical call by the minister in one of the homes. This
mily was inactive before the Church Attendance Crusade.
now active.



The church school now uses all available space. As a result of the influx of new members since the Church Attendance Crusade, a building program is badly needed.



A section of the congregation showing the "overflow" crowds at the climax of the Church Attendance Crusade.

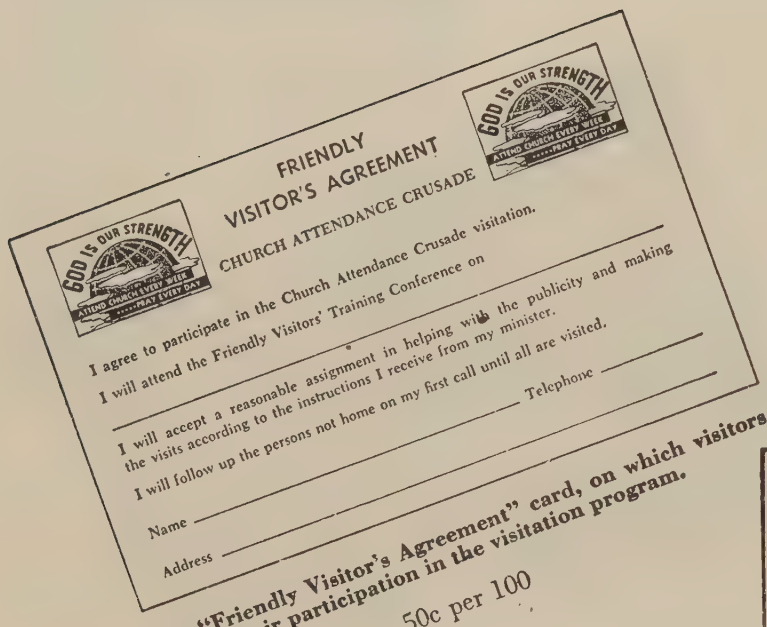
Part of the 86 new members received into the membership of the church as a result of the Church Attendance Crusade.

group of preparatory members meet in the living room of the parnage. They are enrolled in a three month training period.

Organizational and interest group leaders of the Sparta Methodist Church. The minister, Nicholas G. Mas, is shown at the right.

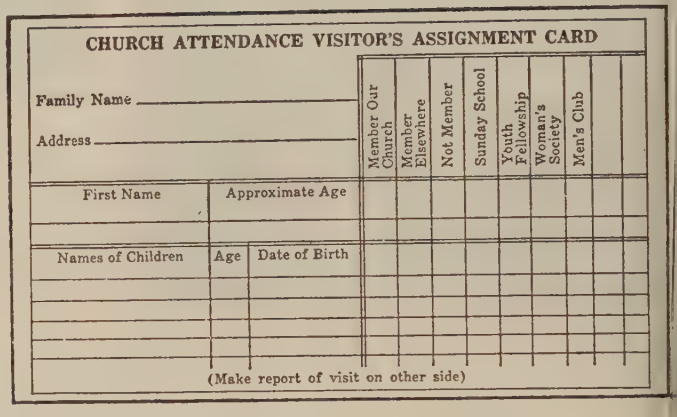
MATERIALS FOR THE

CRUSADE


FRIENDLY
VISITOR'S AGREEMENT
CHURCH ATTENDANCE CRUSADE
GOD IS OUR STRENGTH
I agree to participate in the Church Attendance Crusade visitation.
I will attend the Friendly Visitors' Training Conference on
I will accept a reasonable assignment in helping with the publicity and making the visits according to the instructions I receive from my minister.
I will follow up the persons not home on my first call until all are visited.
Name
Telephone
Address

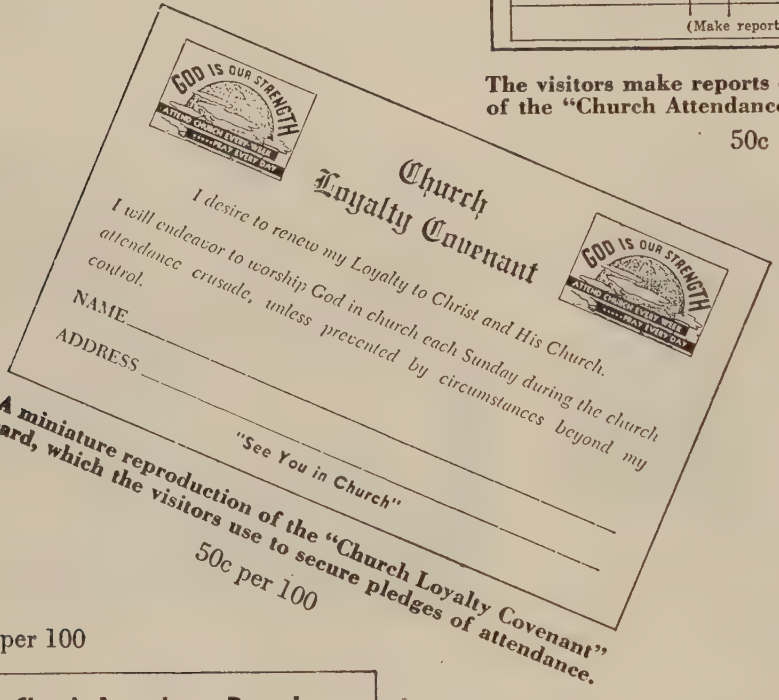
The "Friendly Visitor's Agreement" card, on which visitors pledge their participation in the visitation program.

50c per 100



The visitors make reports of their visits on the reverse side of the "Church Attendance Visitor's Assignment Card."

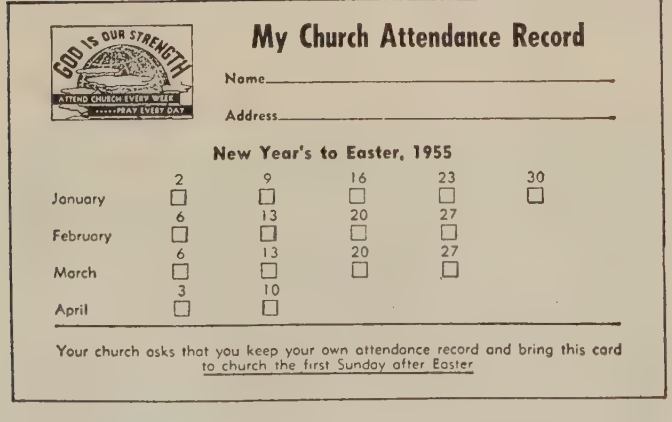
50c per 100


GOD IS OUR STRENGTH
Church
Loyalty Covenant
I desire to renew my Loyalty to Christ and His Church.
I will endeavor to worship God in church each Sunday during the church attendance crusade, unless prevented by circumstances beyond my control.
NAME
ADDRESS
"See You in Church"

A miniature reproduction of the "Church Loyalty Covenant" card, which the visitors use to secure pledges of attendance.

50c per 100

50c per 100


GOD IS OUR STRENGTH
My Church Attendance Record
Name
Address
New Year's to Easter, 1955
January 2 9 16 23 30
February 6 13 20 27
March 6 13 20 27
April 3 10
Your church asks that you keep your own attendance record and bring this card to church the first Sunday after Easter

Through the use of the "My Church Attendance Record" card, each person keeps his own record of attendance. This card will be made available for all seasons.

All of the Materials on this page are in the Church Attendance Packet but available separately.

Available from

TIDINGS

Headquarters for Evangelistic Materials

1908 Grand Avenue, Nashville 5, Tennessee

"In Christ There Is No East or West"

Hungarian Edition

Of the twenty-seven editions of THE PPER ROOM, some, such as the Rus-n and Hungarian editions, reach di-ctly behind the iron curtain seeking bring God's Word daily to these peo-e. The editor of the Hungarian edi-n is the Rev. Dr. Kalman D. Toth, stor of the Hungarian Presbyterian urch, Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

Dr. Toth was educated in Budapest, ngary, at the Theological Reformed urch Seminary. In 1935, he came to e United States to continue his gradu-e studies, receiving his Master's de-ee from Princeton Seminary and his octor's degree from Union Theolog-l Seminary.

After completing his formal educa-n in the United States, he returned Hungary as Director of Christian ducation of the Reformed Church. He me to Canada in 1947.

Although some copies of THE UPPER OOM are sent to individuals in Hun-ry, the greater part of the circulation the Hungarian edition is in the larger ies of the United States, South nerica, Italy, Australia, and Canada.

In the picture above, Dr. Kalman D. Toth, editor of the Hungarian edition, is shown examining a copy of the Special World Council Edition of *The Upper Room* with Deaconess Elis Czeke, who works out of Yorkton, Saschawan, Canada.

Russian Edition

Seeking to unite Christians through-t the world in daily devotions, THE PPER ROOM has begun publication of a ussian edition. The Reverend Sergei ubrovin, pastor of Christ Church, elsinki, Finland, born in Russia, has en appointed the editor of this new lition. Dr. Dubrovin is pastor of one the great Methodist Churches of urope.

The new Russian edition has been oduced primarily as a devotional guide r the many Russian refugees in Eu-pe. It is hoped that some copies may id their way into Russia itself. It is ing published in Borga, Finland and stributed by the Slavic Mission from ockholm, Sweden. Publication began ith the October, November, December sue of THE UPPER ROOM. The Russian lition is using the quarterly system. his brings the number of editions of HE UPPER ROOM to twenty-seven.

An Overworked Nurse Finds Joy and Peace Through Telugu Copy of *The Upper Room*

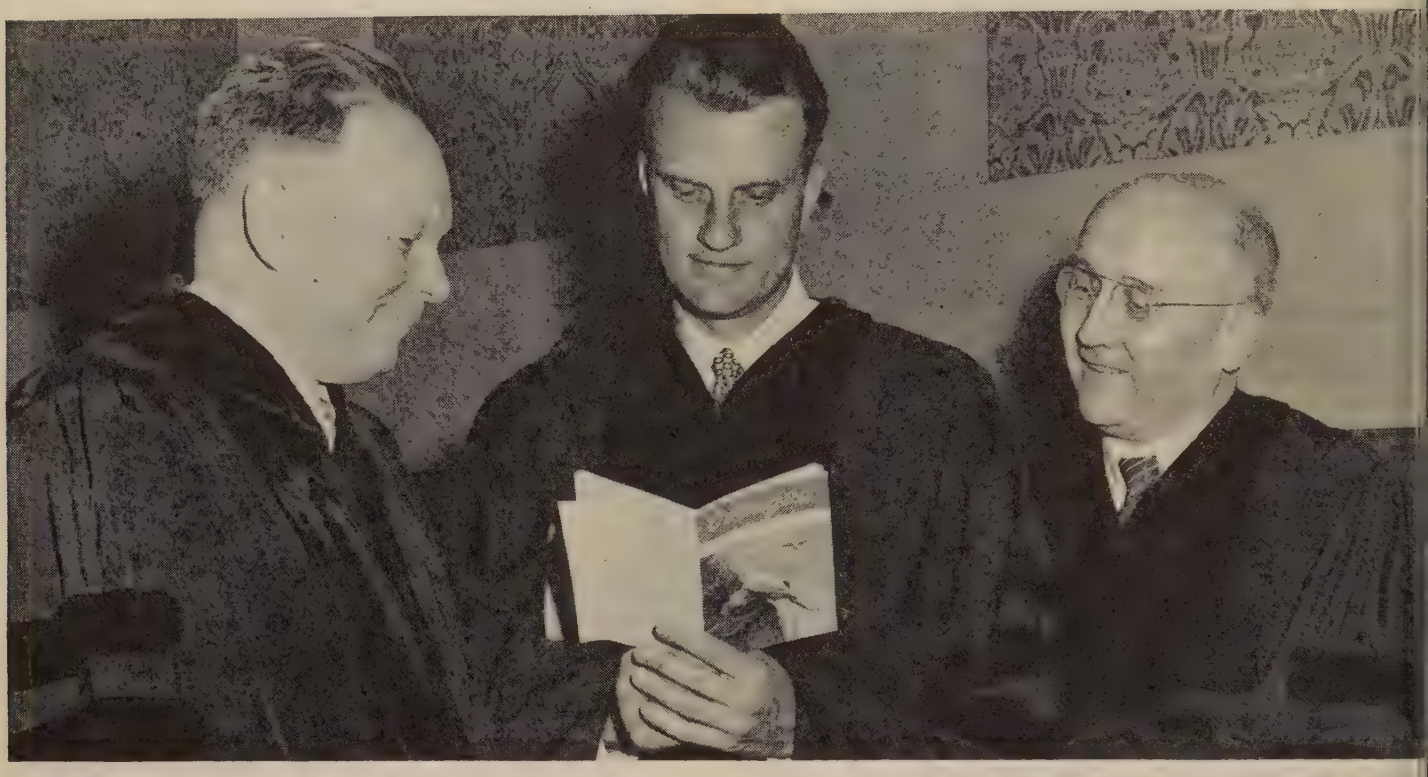
A nurse who was very good and conscientious at her work, and who took up nursing as her life work for the sake of her Lord Jesus, soon began to feel her work a drudgery. To add to her misery, misunderstandings among the staff began to worry her, and that made matters worse for her. Her work had become an unbearable burden. Her body began to ache because of overwork; her mind began to experience unbearable pain and worry.

One day she suddenly caught sight of a Telugu copy of THE UPPER ROOM. She was told that THE UPPER ROOM was a devotional magazine and that it would help its readers to enter into the very presence of the Lord and fellowship with Him. To that she replied she was very badly in need of such a devotional, and she was given a copy. She began to read it with avidity, longing to enter into fellowship with Jesus who, alone, could give her the peace and strength of mind she so badly needed.

After a few weeks she said that, as she was reading the devotions for March 30, the words of our Lord, "Abide in Me and I in you," went straight into her heart and constrained her to surrender herself to the Lord as never before. She felt drawn to her Saviour, and the Saviour entered into her heart. Immediately the feelings of drudgery and embitterment left her and she began to rejoice in her Lord for the great privilege He gave her to serve the sick and the needy and to have fellowship both with the staff and the patients. Finally she said that henceforth, whatever her work might be, and wherever she might be, she would ever remain in her Lord—the True Vine—as a branch in the Vine.

She was most grateful that she came across THE UPPER ROOM. She testified to the fact that THE UPPER ROOM devotional had indeed led her into the very Upper Room of the Lord's presence.

Evangelistic Leaders Examine New Russian Edition



Dr. Paul Maddox of the Billy Graham evangelistic team, Billy Graham, and Dr. George H. Jones, editor of *Shepherds*, examine the first copy of the new edition of *The Upper Room* in Russian. Speaking to staff and employees of the Board of Evangelism and of *The Upper Room* Billy Graham led one of the regular Wednesday morning chapel services. Dr. Joseph D. Blinco, pastor of Archway Central Methodist Hall, London, England, and a member of the Graham team for the Nashville Crusade, was also a speaker at an Upper Room Chapel service.

ALL 4 VEST POCKET BOOKS

By Bishop Ralph Spaulding Cushman

AN IDEAL GIFT $1.75

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These four lovely books in the gift box make a handsome appearance. Here is an attractive gift of deep spiritual significance and available at a low price. *Only $1.75 per set.*

You will want a set for yourself, too

1908 Grand Avenue **THE UPPER ROOM** **Nashville 5, Tennessee**

Great New Bible Commentary

THE INTERPRETER'S BIBLE. Volume 3—I and II Kings; I and II Chronicles; Ezra; Nehemiah; Esther; Job. (Abingdon Press: New York and Nashville. 1,198 pages; $8.75)

With the publication of this new olume (the seventh in the set of twelve, vithout equal in this or any other cen- ry,"—*Pulpit Digest*) seven addition- books of Biblical history and one of e books of poetry and wisdom come ive with their message of truth for all ges of mankind.

Norman H. Snaith, Ralph W. Sock- an, and Raymond Calkins team up in e Introduction, Exegesis, and Exposi- on of the treatment of Kings. The her competent Volume 3 contributors re W. A. L. Elmslie (Chronicles); aymond A. Bowman and Charles W. ilkey (Ezra and Nehemiah); Bern- ard W. Anderson and Arthur C. ichtenberger (Esther); and assistant litors Terrien and Scherer of THE NTERPRETER'S BIBLE give the Book of ob the kind of treatment that has arned for the entire work the label: "A great commentary!"(—*Christian Century*)

Eleven full-page maps and charts further one's grasp of the period's religious and secular history: Palestine—the Kingdom of Solomon; Plan of Solomon's Temple; Jerusalem in Old Testament Times; Palestine—The Divided Monarchy: (A). Palestine—The Divided Monarchy, (B). Palestine—The Kingdom of Judah; Palestine—The Kingdom of David; Palestine—Kingdom of David (continued); Palestine—Kingdoms of Israel and Judah; Palestine—The Return and Reconstruction; The Persian Empire.

One must again comment on the excellence of the general plan of THE INTERPRETER'S BIBLE: In Volume 1, the General Articles on the Whole Bible, the General Articles on the Old Testament, and the Introduction, Exegesis, and Exposition of Genesis and Exodus; in Volume VII, the General Articles on the New Testament; in all the volumes, the inclusion of the entire text of the Bible in both the King James and the Revised Standard Version; the typographic arrangement which brings together on the same page the exegesis and exposition of the Bible text appearing at the top of each page. "The effect is to reemphasize the inspiration, authority, and wisdom of the Bible; to make it more than ever the guide to the knowledge and love of God."(—New York *Times*.)

We look forward to the Spring, 1955, publication of Volume 4 in which the entire Book of Psalms and the Book of Proverbs will receive the comprehensive and stimulating treatment of seven other distinguished Christian scholars and preachers.

ABINGDON PRESS PUBLICATIONS---1954

A Classified List

postles' Creed
- CREED OF OUR HOPE, by Merrill R. Abbey

he Bible
- INTERPRETER'S BIBLE: Volume 3 (Kings, Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Job)
- INTERPRETER'S BIBLE: Volume 9 (Acts, Romans)
- INTERPRETING THE BIBLE TO YOUTH, by J. T. Carlyon
- JEREMIAH: Chronologically Arranged, Translated, and Interpreted, by Elmer A. Leslie

hristian Education
- CHRISTIAN TEACHING IN THE CHURCHES, by John Q. Schisler

he Christian Ministry
- WHO SPEAKS FOR GOD, by Gerald Kennedy

he Christian Home
- HOLY DAYS AND HOLIDAYS AT HOME, by Anna Laura Gebhard

Christian Stewardship
- STEWARDSHIP STUDIES, by Roy L. Smith

Christian Worship
- HISTORICAL APPROACH TO CHRISTIAN WORSHIP, by Ilion T. Jones

Christianity vs. Communism
- CHRISTIANITY, COMMUNISM, AND HISTORY, by William Hordern

Church Membership (Adults)
- YOU'RE A MEMBER NOW, by Roy L. Smith

Comfort and Assurance
- OF SUCH IS THE KINGDOM, by Leila T. Ammerman

The District Superintendent
- THE DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT: His Life and Work in the Methodist Church, by Nolan B. Harmon

Fund Raising
- RAISING MONEY FOR CHURCH BUILDING PROJECTS, by A. W. Lumley

Devotional and Inspirational

THE GREATEST OF THESE, by Jane Merchant

A JOURNEY INTO FAITH, by Thomas S. Kepler

RICHES OF THE KINGDOM, by Grace Noll Crowell

The Funeral

THE FUNERAL AND THE MOURNERS, by Paul E. Irion

Homiletics

BIOGRAPHICAL PREACHING FOR TODAY, by Andrew W. Blackwood

FIRE IN THY MOUTH, by Donald G. Miller

PREACHING, by Walter Russell Bowie

PREACHING ANGLES, by Frank H. Caldwell

Lord's Prayer

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL, by Marc Boegner

Re-issues and Revisions

THE CHRISTIAN'S PATTERN, selections by John Wesley from Thomas à Kempis

THE LORD'S HORSEMAN: John Wesley the Man, by Umphrey Lee

METHODISM IN AMERICAN HISTORY (Revised and Enlarged,) by William W. Sweet

PSYCHOLOGY, RELIGION, AND HEALING (Revised), by Leslie D. Weatherhead

THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS (Revised Edition), by Charles S. Braden

Sermons

GETTING TO KNOW GOD, by John A. Redhead, Jr.

SERMONS FROM THE MOUNT, by Charles M. Crowe

STORY SERMONS FOR JUNIORS, by Alice Geer Kelsey

THAT IMMORTAL SEA, by Leslie D. Weatherhead

THIS DO—AND LIVE, by Roy M. Pearson

YOU CAN CONQUER, by Clarence E. Macartney

Vocations for Youth

CAREERS FOR YOU, by Erma Paul Ferrari

Theology (Wesleyan)

A COMPEND OF WESLEY'S THEOLOGY, arranged by Burtner and Childs

THE PURE IN HEART, by W. E. Sangster

General

FLY WITH ME TO INDIA, by Dorothy Clarke Wilson

MEN OF THE HIGH CALLING, edited by Charles Neider

WE GREW UP IN AMERICA, edited by Alice Isabel Hazeltine

THE FLEAS COME WITH THE DOG, by Ralph McGill

GAMES OF MANY NATIONS, by E. O. Harbin

ABINGDON PARTY PARADE (for 'teen-agers), by Bernice Hogan

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1955

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NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

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- GREAT SINGING
- GREAT FELLOWSHIP
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10,000 MEMBERS OF CONVENTION • 3,000 METHODISTS TO BE THERE

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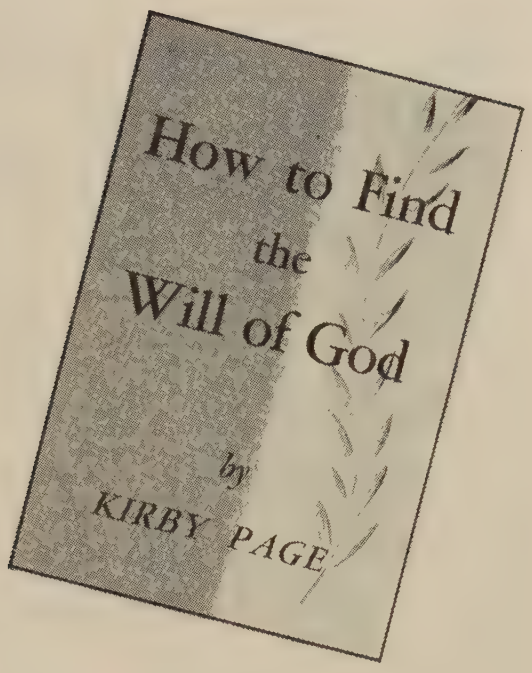
HOME • CHURCH

Search with a Promise

by Ray W. Ragsdale

Superintendent, Los Angeles District



A NEW KIND of spiritual exploration is taking place in Southern California this fall, and it may well spread throughout the nation. This is the way it came about.

Kirby Page was in his early morning devotions at his hilltop home in La Habra Heights in California. The wind of the spirit was blowing strongly that morning. An overwhelming impression came upon him that he should do something to help people at two points: how to know the will of God and how to get the power to do it. Failure at one of both of these points, he felt, was at the heart of the world's sickness.

A Second Step

It became clear to Kirby Page that he must take a second step. Accordingly, he called together a small group of ministers from several denominations. In this group were Dr. Gene E. Bartlett, of the First Baptist Church of Los Angeles; Dr. Russell E. Clay, of the First Methodist Church of Whittier, California; Dr. John W. Fulke, of Morningside Evangelical and Reformed Church, Inglewood; Dr. Wesley R. Ford, of Central Christian Church, Pasadena; Dr. Owen M. Geer, of the First Methodist Church of Fullerton; Dr. Carl W. Segarhammar, of Angelica Lutheran Church of Los Angeles; and the writer.

To this small group, Dr. Page said, "Every thoughtful person is aware of the sickness of our society. Everywhere there is confusion, maladjustment, tension, suspicion, fear, and conflict. Beyond the broken homes registered in divorce courts are countless families rent by bitter quarrels and unloving relationships. Many young people are haunted by the sense of insecurity and the feeling of futility in life. Across racial lines there is much hostility, and the economic struggle is often ruthless. The political scene sometimes brings a feeling of nausea, while nations hover on the brink of hydrogen warfare. Civil liberties are scorned, and many teachers are filled with timidity. Sometimes the message of the Prince of Peace is proclaimed in a nearly inaudible whisper."

Mr. Page paused, and there were nods of agreement among his listeners. Then he continued, "How can people find the will of God, and how can they get the power to do it? These questions lie at the heart of our problem today. If people can be led to confront these basic questions seriously and earnestly, something remarkable is going to happen!"

A Spiritual Experiment

The ministers fell to discussing this problem. They recognized that most people act without reference to the will of God. They saw, also, that some people searched out the will of God for their lives, but then they bogged down because they didn't have the power to see it through. They began to talk about how this kind of experience could be provided for the people in their churches.

"I know one thing," said one man. "If we are to lead our people to do this, we must experiment with it ourselves." It was decided then to set aside a full day for an unhurried retreat in which this spiritual exploration could be experienced by the members of this small group. When the day arrived, there was a rare spiritual eagerness manifest. The hours of the morning were spent in periods of prayer and discussion. Discussion centered around the first question: How to find the will of God. In the afternoon, the discussion swung to the second question: How to get the power to do the will of God. The discussion was interspersed with periods of listening to quieting music and to other forms of unhurried exposure of the soul to the spirit of God.

Toward the end of the day, one of the men said, "Our people will need something to read if they are going to do this." Thus was born the idea of a book that could be used as a guide and study book for spiritual exploration groups in churches. Members of the group agreed to collaborate with Kirby Page in preparing the manuscript.*

Practical Plans

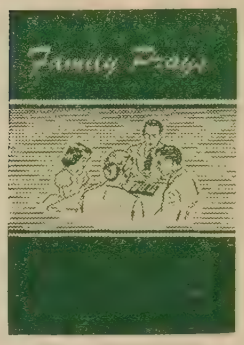
More than 250 churches of some 10 denominations are participating in the spiritual exploration this fall. How are they doing it? Some ministers are using Saturday afternoon and evening from two to nine o'clock with different groups on successive weeks for this prayerful conversation. In some cases different

* Entitled *How to Find the Will of God*, the book may be secured from TIDINGS, 1908 Grand Avenue, Nashville 5, Tennessee, at 50¢ each, or 35¢ each in lots of 12.

WHEN THE FAMILY PRAYS

By HAZEN G. WERNER

PRACTICAL!
HELPFUL!
NEW!



Within the compass of thirty pages, Bishop Hazen G. Werner has distilled a life time of experience on the values and methods of making religion effective as "a family affair."

It is a practical book to give to a young family, especially at a time when religion seems to come to the fore: sometimes marriage; often the birth of the first child; sometimes when illness or difficulty strikes the family, or when the family unite with the church. This is a booklet you want to keep on hand for you will want to refer to it and give it to friends. **15¢ single copy. 8 copies $1.00. 100 or more, 10¢ each.**

PRAYERS FROM THE MIDDLE AGES

Light from a Thousand Years

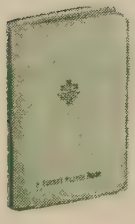
Edited by J. MANNING POTTS

The thousand years from the fifth to the fifteenth century are often referred to as the dark ages, but this book shows clearly that the medieval church was not devoid of spiritual power. This handsome volume will be useful in private devotions and will find much use in group worship. 96 pages. Red flexible binding. **50¢ each. $5.00 per dozen.**

PRAYERS OF THE EARLY CHURCH

Edited by J. MANNING POTTS

Many will find in this beautifully bound book a source of inspiration and guidance for their own devotions. It will be valued and appreciated by prayer cells and prayer groups. Useful in group worship. Prayers are from the first five centuries of the Christian era. **50¢ per copy. $5.00 per dozen.**



A POCKET PRAYER BOOK

White Deluxe Edition

Here is a book of special beauty. Contents are the same as the regular binding edition but the special white imitation leather binding, the gold stamping and the gold over red edges combine to make this a truly deluxe edition. Very popular as a Christmas gift. **75 cents each. $7.50 per dozen.**

Christmas Carols

For...
Greeting Cards,
Carolling,
Parties,
Worship

Twenty of the best loved Christmas carols have been brought together in this attractive booklet, all in their familiar musical arrangements. Other material includes two pages of Bible passages that tell the Christmas story and two pages of suggested worship services for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Twenty-four pages, beautiful two-color cover. Ideal for schools, parties, and home use.

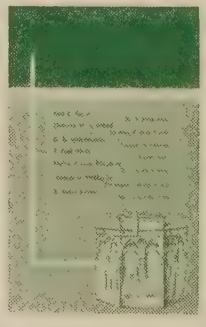
Sample copy 15¢—10 copies, $1.00

7 cents each in lots of 100 or more

Envelopes to fit—Order Regular Upper Room envelopes, Plain. 1 cent each in lots of ten or more.

The Upper Room Pulpit

A Monthly Magazine of Preaching

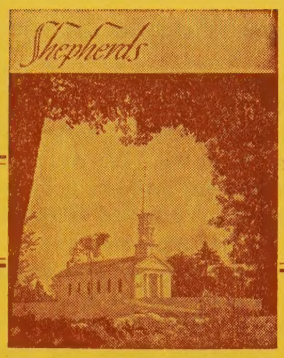


Each issue contains at least six vital, stimulating sermons. Chosen for their timeliness of theme and timelessness of message. By the presentation of effective sermons, THE UPPER ROOM PULPIT seeks to keep readers abreast of what in our day is being said in the influential pulpits. It gives a cross section of the best preaching of our times. ***$1.50 per year in United States and Canada. $2.00 Foreign.***

1908 Grand Ave. THE UPPER ROOM Nashville 5, Tenn.

SUPPLEMENT TO SHEPHERDS

December, 1954



ommitment Day Emphasizes "Christmas for Christ!"

Board of World Peace Announces New Film

The Radio and Film Commission has st finished, for the Board of World ace, the production of *Youth and the usade for World Order,* a thirteen-nute, 16mm. motion picture film in ck and white. The film shows Bishop Bromley Oxnam, chairman of the mmission on the Crusade for World der of the Council of Bishops, being erviewed by Richard Thompson, esident of the National Conference of ethodist Youth, and Barbara Ricks, a ethodist Youth Consultant to the anston Assembly of the World Coun- of Churches. The film is excellent for e with large and small groups of sen- s and older youth as well as with ults.

Since the Crusade for World Order ll be receiving great attention roughout the Church, the Board of orld Peace urges strongly that you an to purchase a copy of this film for e on an Annual Conference or District sis. Prints are available immediately om the Radio and Film Commission, ox 868, Nashville Tennessee, at $45.00 ch. Order yours now and have it avail-le in time for your summer institute ogram.

Where not more than a few showings e desired, the film can be rented at .50 per showing from the depository The Methodist Publishing House hich serves you.

A special leader's guide has been pre-red for those using the film and is ailable *free on request* from the Board World Peace, 740 Rush Street, Chi-go 11, Illinois. We recommend that herever possible youth be given a ance, preferably in small groups, to k questions and discuss this film after has been shown. The leader's guide ll be an important aid to discussion.

With the increasing pressure that is being exerted upon the people to use alcoholic beverages, resulting in the breakdown of the home, increased juvenile delinquency, and defilement of human personality, our ministers are realizing that the Church has a responsibility to answer this problem. It can challenge them to commit their lives to total abstinence and witness to others of the more abundant way of life.

Commitment Day gives the pastor this opportunity. Now that Commitment Day comes on the first Sunday in December (this year December 5), the pastor has an even greater opportunity by tying the whole idea of abstinence into the emphasis on making "Christmas for Christ." The Board of Temperance of The Methodist Church urges people to ignore the plea of the alcoholic beverage industry to "give the gift of the season." It calls upon business and industry to observe Christmas as a holy season rather than celebrating it as a holiday with the usual alcoholic revelry.

The Church can challenge society in the spirit of Christ as no other group or organization, so that our nation can be changed from a free-drink to a drink-free nation. Commitment Day gives us an added opportunity to make this challenge.

Helpful Literature

Here is an opportunity for making a Christian Decision. For every individual, commitment to abstinence is another step in Christian living.

Toward this end the Board has prepared two pieces of helpful literature. One is the Christmas stamp pictured with this article. The other is a new Christmas drama written by Don Kuhn and entitled "The Pink Christmas Tree," available at 40¢ per copy.

Commitment Day materials should be ordered now from:

The Mailing Department
Parthenon Press
815 Demonbreun Street
Nashville, Tennessee

Startling Facts on American Spiritual Conditions

1. People spend eight times more hours at movies than at Sunday school.
2. Only one out of 12 persons in our country attends church regularly.
3. Seven out of eight children quit church and Sunday school attendance before they reach 15 years of age.
4. Fifteen million sex magazines are printed monthly and are read by teen-agers.
5. There are more barmaids in America than college girls.
6. One million illegitimate babies are born annually.
7. One million girls have venereal disease.
8. Our nation harbors three times as many criminals as college students.
9. A major crime is committed in America every 22 seconds.

—J. Edgar Hoover, reported by W. Malcolm Fuller, *Bristol Herald Courier,* Sept. 24, 1954

New Mission Study Book

The new study book for the annual Church-Wide Schools of Missions in The Methodist Church, entitled, *Crowded Ways,* deals with the American City as a challenging mission field for this denomination. *Crowded Ways* is a symposium by five men and women who have made a study of the city and its fringes from as many points of view.

The *Leader's Kit,* a new venture in more complete helps for teachers and leaders of organized groups making the church-wide study this year, is a real need. In addition to *Crowded Ways,* it contains the Guide, by Dr. Karl Quimby, which is replete with suggestions for enriching the study; the Fact Book; a revealing collection of meaningful charts and statistics on urban Methodism; and other useful tools and resources for teachers and leaders.

For further information, write the Joint Section of Education and Cultivation, The Board of Missions, The Methodist Church, 150 Fifth Avenue, New York 11, New York.

Prayer Vigil Inaugurates Church

Fellowship Methodist Church, Hamlet, North Carolina, George C. Megill, pastor, was officially organized on September 19 with 103 members. A tent revival preceded the organization of the new church by one week, and an all night prayer vigil was held the night before the church's inauguration.

Visit to Organize New Church

On Pentecost Sunday, 1954, these laymen from First Methodist Church, Ponca City, Oklahoma, met to undertake visiting in behalf of the formation of the new Asbury Church. These 85 men set out to make approximately 2,000 calls informing people of the creation of the new congregation and inviting them to the first service.

Flash!

Results from Baltimore Christian Witness Mission

A partial report from the Baltimore Christian Witness Mission just ended, shows the following results: 800 youth participating, 2,000 interviews, 247 on profession, over 1,000 enrolled in MYF. Attendance at services: Monday, 1,600; Tuesday, 1,400; Wednesday, 1,750; Thursday, 1,850; Friday, Hurricane Hazel; Saturday, 1,100. There were 215 youth who pledged themselves to full-time Christian service.

Revised Booklet On Religious Census

A revised edition of the popular and practical booklet, *The Religious Census,* by Eugene E. Golay, has just come from the press. In addition to effective methods of making a house-to-house canvass, the booklet contains a section on surveying the community by telephone.

Latest Methods

Here are the latest procedures which have been tried and proved by many pastors and congregations in various parts of the country.

Available from TIDINGS, the booklet sells at 10¢ a copy, 6 for 50¢.

North Georgia Conference Pilot Christian Witness Mission

Shown above are scenes from the North Georgia Conference Pilot Christian Witness Mission held at Rome, Georgia, this past summer. From this Mission have come plans for District or sub-District Missions in 75 to 100 churches in North Georgia. In the Pilot Mission there were 225 participating youth, who interviewed 402 young people, secured 42 first commitments, 157 new MYF members, and 7 transfers, for a total of 206 decisions. Pictured at the left are the participating youth who came to the Mission from outside Rome. At the right, Charles Frazier, MYF President; A. Kempton Haynes, Jr.; Charles Boleyan, Milledgeville, Georgia; and Janet Richards, Gainesville, Georgia, check reports of the Mission.

make the

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By Emphasizing the Deep Spiritual Nature of the Season

REDISCOVERING CHRISTMAS

by G. Ernest Thomas

A new book describing practical ways in which to make this a Christian Christmas. The November selection of the Tidings Evangelistic Book Club.

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Director of Spiritual Life

PART I

The

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— Ephesians 6:16

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1908 Grand Avenue

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MORE HELP FOR FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

New!

WORSHIP TIME

To provide more devotional material for families with young children, Dr. Staples, compiler of *Prayer Time,* has gathered this additional book of suggested meditations. Based on the same plan as *Prayer Time* this new book serves both to enlarge the number of subjects or topics from which a family may choose devotional material and also to add additional meditations in certain areas. The meditations suggested here are intended for family use and are aimed to keep the family altar a meaningful experience for each member of the family. 256 pages Sewed. Paper cover. *50 cents each. $5.00 per dozen.*

Prayer Time
Poetry Time
Children's Prayers

} in a Gift Box

Only
$1.35

Order: Children's Gift Box

Prayer Time compiled by Edward D. Staples is a book of more than 200 meditations by skilled writers for children. *Poetry Time* compiled by John W. Brewton is a collection of lovely poems gathered by an outstanding authority in the field of children's verse. *Children's Prayers* is a combination book by artist and poet expressing the child's prayer and praise.

GIFTS WITH A SPIRITUAL LIFT

Meditations from a Prison Cell

F. Olin Stockwell

(Author of With God in Red China)

Imprisoned in Chungking, West China. Dr. Stockwell was lonely, helpless, and in great danger. These meditations came as he discovered the resources of his faith. 35c each. 3 for $1.00. 12 for $3.50.

How to Live All Your Life

David A. MacLennan

The professor of preaching at the Divinity School of Yale University opens up a number of ways each person can live more of his life. Single copy, 15c each. 10 copies, $1.00. One hundred or more, 7c each.

Alone with God

Grover C. Emmons

An inspiring prayer for each day of the year by the first editor of *THE UPPER ROOM.* The prayers, reflecting the deep spiritual life of the author, were found among his papers after his death. These prayers help the reader to express the prayers of his own mind and heart. 35c each. 3 copies $1.00. $3.50 per dozen.

Meeting God Through the Bible

Nels F. S. Ferre

One of America's leading theologians presents clearly and simply how the Bible becomes alive. How through it God speaks NOW. Single copy 15c. 8 copies, $1.00. One hundred or more, 10c each.

You Are Important

Roy L. Smith

Here is practical help in meeting the problems of day-to-day living. These 56 little lessons brings real lift for the spirit especially during times of discouragement and disappointment. 35c each. 3 copies $1.00. $3.50 per dozen.